

*H. M. Nelson*

THE  
**SOUTHERN PLANTER;**

*Devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, and the Household Arts.*

EDITED BY C. T. ROTTS.



**Pay up your Subscriptions to the Planter, for the year 1846.**

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**RICHMOND:**

**PRINTED FOR THE PROPRIETOR BY P. D. BERNARD**

**1846.**

*March*



## LAND FOR SALE.

A Farm situated on the Brook Turnpike, about three miles from Bacon Quarter Branch, consisting of 93½ acres, nearly seventy of which are under cultivation, the balance being in wood. The land having been greatly improved during the last two years, is now in a condition to produce abundantly the usual crops. In addition to an Apple Orchard, there are growing about 350 young trees of other fruit, a portion of which will bear the present year. The buildings consist of a large two story brick House with basement, and all other necessary and convenient out houses.

The location of the farm, both as to beauty and health, is not surpassed by any in the country, uniting the advantages of a town and country residence.

A Tract of 620 acres in Prince George, 13 miles below Petersburg, only 120 acres cleared, the balance in original growth of the finest oak and pine; the place is extremely healthy, and abounds with marl; a good dwelling house and out buildings. It is offered at seven dollars an acre and affords an excellent opportunity for investment to any active man who is willing to go into the lumber business. Address T. H. Ivey, Powhatan Court House.

✂ A most desirable location for a Physician.

A physician who enjoys a large practice, but who desires to remove to the city for the purpose of educating his children, would sell for \$1200 a small farm which affords one of the most eligible situations for a young physician in all the lower country. For further particulars apply to the Editor of the S. Planter.

The subscriber is authorised to sell the tavern, store house and other buildings at Amelia Court House, and to any man who can command the capital to keep the house, an opportunity to make a fortune presents itself. As a stand for a tavern and store, it can be hardly excelled in the state of Virginia. To these buildings are attached a thousand acres of land, which includes all the ground within a mile of the Court House. This affords a certain monopoly at the county seat of a wealthy and thickly populated portion of the State. The whole property can be bought for ten thousand dollars, on the usual credits. To a northern man accustomed to this sort of business, an opportunity for investment in Virginia is offered that might not present itself again in fifty years.

C. T. BOTTS.

One thousand acres of land on James River, about 6 miles from Williamsburg—360 acres are cleared and marled—the balance is in wood, and very convenient to the river. The buildings are chiefly new and commodious.

A beautiful suburban residence near the City of Richmond, consisting of a large three story brick house, with 10 fine rooms, a handsome greenhouse, brick kitchen, stables, carriage house, &c. with an acre of highly improved ground. This property lies just without the corporation line, and enjoys all the advantages of the City without being subjected to any of its burdens. A great bargain can be had in it.

Sixty acres of highly improved Land upon the Brook Turnpike, within 2 miles of the City. Buildings new and good. A capital establishment for a dairy farm.

A very valuable farm, beautifully situated on the Rapid Ann River, in the County of Culpeper. It contains 643 acres, about 300 cleared and highly improved. The buildings are good, and the soil proverbially excellent. This is one of the most delightful and healthy regions in Virginia. The society in this neighborhood is unsurpassed by any in the Union. Price \$20 per acre.

A great bargain can be bought in 900 acres of land in Powhatan, upon the Appomattox river, 33 miles from Richmond. This property is situated in one of the finest neighborhoods in Virginia, is perfectly healthy, and finely watered. There are 400 acres in woods and 50 acres of low grounds, a good dwelling with a new granary, and all necessary outhouses.—

Fifty miles of river navigation carries you to Petersburg, or ten miles of land carriage bring you to the James River Canal. The proprietor of this estate, who is now living in the City of Richmond, offers to sell it at a most reduced rate.

Ten miles from the City of Richmond, 300 acres of Land, highly improved, with a large and excellent brick dwelling and all convenient out houses, in a beautiful and healthy situation, can be bought for \$6,000.

Five hundred acres in Powhatan, upon James River, 22 miles from Richmond, thirteen of it low grounds. Attached to this tract is Jude's Ferry, which is yielding, even now, a clear income of \$200 per annum. The upland rests upon a good clay foundation and is easily improved, for which its situation affords the greatest facilities. The dwelling and out buildings are good and convenient, and the fencing is excellent. The situation is perfectly healthy. It can be bought for nine dollars an acre.

In New Kent, on the Chickahominy River, 14 miles from Richmond, there lies a tract of valuable Land which the owner, who is about to embark in mercantile business in Richmond, is very anxious to sell.—The whole tract consists of 1096 acres, of which 400 acres is of the best quality of Chickahominy low grounds, admirably adapted to the growth of grass. The timber on this tract is very valuable: one half of it is in the original heavy growth, and there is upon the premises an excellent site for a saw mill. It can be purchased, on credit, for \$10,000.

A beautiful little Place of 200 acres, in the County of Chesterfield, three and a half miles from the City of Richmond. This place is highly improved and perfectly healthy. The dwelling is a large wooden building, nearly new; the water is equal to any in Virginia. The out-houses are numerous and excellent—good garden and good fencing. One hundred and thirty acres in wood and timber, the sale of which would more than pay for the place. There is upon it a fine young orchard and a flourishing vineyard.—Price \$1,200—\$1,500 in cash, balance in one and two years, bearing interest.

C. T. BOTTS.

## AYRSHIRE STOCK FOR SALE.

THE subscriber will have for sale half Ayrshire bull and cow calves, to be dropped the coming spring out of well bred cows, they being crosses of the Durham, Devon, Alderney and Dutch breed on the Native Stock of the country, contiguous to him, and selected for their good milking properties with much trouble and expense.

BRUCE, the sire of these calves, is one of the most noted families of Ayrshires in Scotland, and will, himself, compare with any Bull of the Ayrshire breed in the United States. Prices asked will be very moderate, and the calves delivered during the summer and fall months. Early applications desired, which may be made through the Richmond Post Office.

D. W. HAXALL.

Pikoonokee, Henrico co. 30th Jan. 1846.

## FAN MILLS, STRAW & STALK CUTTERS.

GRANT'S Patent Fan Mill for Chaffing and Screening Wheat and Seed at one operation at the rate of 50 to 75 bushels per hour, according to the size of the Mill. Cockle, Cheat and Smut may all be taken out by once running through the Mill. The 1st Premium at the New York State Fair was awarded for these Mills in 1845. Also, the 1st Premium of the Philadelphia Agricultural Society was awarded for these Mills in 1845.

The Patent right for the State of Virginia for sale by the Subscriber.

CORN SHELLERS—STRAW CUTTERS—MEAT CUTTERS—CHURNS, &c. &c.

PROUTY & MEARS' Patent Premium Self-Sharpening Ploughs, which are warranted to give perfect satisfaction in their operation.

PROUTY & MEARS' new and improved Subsoil Plough, a superior article for stirring the subsoil. For sale at wholesale and retail, by

D. O. PROUTY, 194½ Market st. Philadelphia.



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# THE SOUTHERN PLANTER,

Devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, and the Household Arts.

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Agriculture is the nursing mother of the Arts.  
*Xenophon.*

Tillage and Pasturage are the two breasts of the  
State.—*Sully.*

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NEW SERIES.

C. T. BOTTS, Editor.

VOLUME I.

Vol. VI.

RICHMOND, MARCH, 1846.

No. 3.

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For the Southern Planter.

## ON THE USE OF LIME AS A MANURE.

*Mr. Editor,*—In the course of my travels, which have been very considerable for a good many years, my lot has often been cast among farmers, some of them greatly my superiors in knowledge on agricultural subjects as well as other things. I have derived a great deal of pleasure from hearing them describe the various methods they pursue either in improving their lands, or in just raising enough to support their families. I find at present that the use of lime as a manure, is engaging a large share of their attention, and I am sorry to have it to say, that many of them who have tried it are of opinion that it is throwing away money to attempt the use of it. I have conversed with farmers in Hanover, Caroline, Goochland and Louisa, a section of country in which it would be of great importance to the farmer to find something within his grasp to apply to his worn out lands by which they might be brought back again to yield some return for the labor bestowed. They have all testified that they have seen no benefit at all from the use of it. I should be glad to give the names of those farmers, as it might bring them out to give us a little information which might be useful to others, upon this subject; but perhaps it would be indelicate in me to do so. During a few days, this summer, spent at the White Sulphur, which you know is a fine place to see farmers from different parts of our State, where we have nothing else to do but talk over various subjects, I thought it a favorable time to get information upon the use of lime. I conversed with a number of farmers who had used lime without the least success.—One day I met with a very intelligent farmer who had used lime very extensively, and with great success. After my first interview with this gentleman, I was anxious to get all those who had failed in the use of lime, into my room, just to state to us their experiments, and get him to satisfy them, if he could, that the cause of their failure arose from their not going to work in the right way. But their reply was, "We know that when we use manure it at once tells, by its effects on all sorts of lands, and it is very discouraging to be spending time and money for what does no good;" so that I never could get them together. I must say to you, that in ad-

dition to the gentleman alluded to above, I have met with two or three in this county, who use lime on their land, it costing them nothing but the labor of burning it, who speak favorably of it. But in addition to the number who have derived no benefit from it, I have several times passed a field on which fifty bushels to the acre were spread some years ago, and I have, so far as I could judge from riding along the road, never been able to see any advantage that the crops have derived from it. The expense of liming the above land was supposed to be about ten dollars per acre. Philosophers who have investigated the nature and properties of lime, to find out the secret spell by which it works, differ in their opinions. Some have attributed the effect to its power of decomposing putrescible matter; others, to its affinity for carbonic acid; and some have ascribed it to the change effected on the constitution of the soil. I find, on looking over the notes which I made at the White Sulphur, the following conversation between myself and the gentleman above alluded to:

"Do you consider," said I, "lime a beneficial manure to most soils?"

"I do," says he; "lime has stood the test of experience so long as to leave not the smallest doubt, to those in any degree acquainted with the subject; besides, can any one, who is the least acquainted with the Dutch farmers in Pennsylvania, suppose that they would spend time, labor and money, on a useless article?"

"You will perceive," said I, "that I have called lime a manure. Now, as far as my reading extends, it seems to me that lime does not, in itself, constitute a food for plants; therefore, cannot strictly be called a manure."

"It is true," said he, "that lime, in its caustic state, is not a proper food for plants; yet I will show you how it becomes so. In the composition of all vegetable substances, carbon preponderates; it is, therefore, fair to infer that the food of vegetables is, in a great degree, carbonaceous, hence lime, to operate as a manure, should be in the form of *carbonate*. Now, so great is the affinity of lime for carbonic acid, that when exposed to the atmosphere it gradually attracts a sufficient quantity to form it into a carbonate of lime; and being now in a state of minute subdivision, or at least, in a state which easily admits of it, from external causes, it is in a state



to afford the sustenance required by vegetables, and so becomes a manure."

"And how long," said I, "do you suppose lime would take, after being spread on land, to attract a sufficient quantity to afford food to plants?"

He replied, "that as the process is comparatively slow, we do not perceive that much benefit is derived from its application by the first two or three crops; and it is not until the field gets into clover that its utility becomes fully apparent."

"How," said I, "would you recommend lime to be used, so as to be speedily advantageous to the farmer?"

"I will," said he, "advise that it be spread on land after it is broken up in the fall, and suffered to lay on the surface till the spring; then harrowed in just before the corn is planted.—The corn may not be benefited, yet the wheat will be, to some extent; but the clover which follows the wheat will be superior to any thing seen before."

"Has lime," I inquired, "no power of attracting carbonic acid from other sources than the atmosphere?"

"Yes," he replied, "the most expeditious way to derive advantage from lime is to put it on clover, or other vegetables, and plough in all together; by this means there will be immediately an abundant supply for the succeeding crop."

"Have you ever," said I, "seen any sterile land—I mean such as is very poor—benefited by it, without manure at all?"

"I have. A soil having too much sulphate of iron, (which is deleterious to vegetation,) although the other ingredients are of a character to produce fertility, which will, by the application of quick-lime produce abundantly."

"How," said I, "do you account for it?"

"In this way," said he. "By the application of lime the sulphate of iron becomes decomposed, the acid uniting with the lime and forming gypsum, which is a manure, and the iron being forced from the acid is no longer hurtful."

"Can you," I said, "account for the prejudice that has arisen in the minds of some against the use of lime?"

"It may," he replied, "have arisen from the use of a peculiar kind of limestone to be found in many parts of our country, and, with difficulty distinguished from the common sort, except by chemical tests, which contains a considerable proportion of magnesia—an earth similar to lime in some of its properties, but at the same time, a totally distinct substance, and one that in its caustic state is absolutely poisonous to all kinds of vegetables, if applied in sufficient quantities."

I shall now trouble you no more with my notes, but as many of your readers are turning their attention to the use of lime, and are venturing at first only on a small scale, to see

whether there be any virtue in it or not, it would be of great importance that they go about it in the right way. And now how shall we account for those persons in the counties I have named, failing? They all got their lime from Richmond. Can it be that any lime sold in Richmond has a considerable proportion of magnesia in it? I should suppose that it would be very easy to test it. I do not suppose that lime, at its present price, will be extensively used, yet every farmer has a few acres of land near his dwelling that he would be glad to see permanently benefited, almost at any price, and on such lots he is willing to try lime, if it is of no value in producing this effect, it throws a damper over him, and discourages others who hear of his failure from trying.

JAMES FIFE.

*Charlottesville, Jan. 20, 1846.*

#### AN AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL.

In the January number of the *Genesee Farmer* we find an announcement from Dr. Lee, of his intention to open an agricultural school in conjunction with General Harmon, at the residence of the latter, in the Western part of the State of New York. We wish for this scheme and its distinguished projector all the success which the nature of the one, and the character of the other, are entitled to command. We have sometimes jeered the Doctor a little about his sanguine expectations from the science of agriculture, but in truth, we esteem him a very learned and able man, and a most devoted friend to the cause. Gen. Harmon is probably acquainted with the mechanical business of agriculture, and between the two we should suppose there was no institution in America better fitted to give a farmer's son that sort of practical, sensible education that would enable him to keep and improve his paternal acres. We believe the day has come when such an institution in Virginia would pay well, and we regret exceedingly that Dr. Lee did not carry out an intention which we believe he once entertained, of trying the experiment in Virginia. What a happy day would it be for the agriculture of the State when such an institution, founded upon proper principles, should be established amongst us. That it would be patronised we entertain not a shadow of a doubt; but to secure its success, it must be cheap and it must be practical. Suppose an institution to be located in Buckingham, for instance; (we mention this place particularly be-



cause of the buildings so well adapted for it that are offered almost for nothing). At such an institution let all the branches of a good education be thoroughly taught, and let the work of the farm, the whole of it, be performed by the pupils, working in sets for three hours every day, under the supervision of an intelligent, respectable, skilful farmer. The produce of their labor would certainly enable the proprietor to put their board and tuition at a very low rate, say for both, one hundred and twenty dollars per annum. Who that intends his son for a farmer would not send him to such a school? It may be said that young men of Virginia wouldn't consent to perform the drudgery of farm work; we believe they would gladly embrace such an opportunity, at least, the most respectable of them, to learn the use and management of tools and farming implements, as well as the various mechanical operations that are so important to a farmer's success. If a farmer never expects to run a furrow himself, he should, nevertheless, be able to show his ploughmen how to do it. In short, that sort of knowledge which would enable him to drill his hands into perfect ploughmen, wood-cutters, seed-sowers, drivers, osilers, &c., would be invaluable to him. Would the drudgery of such an institution be greater than is willingly encountered by our youth at our military institute, or is the cleaning a musket a more noble or more useful employment than grinding an axe?

We are tired of waiting for the Legislature to establish schools, and make turnpike roads; let us try the effect of individual enterprise and individual exertion, and to encourage some one to such an undertaking in Virginia, we publish Dr. Lee's proposal for his agricultural school in New York.

#### WESTERN NEW YORK AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL.

The undersigned is happy to announce to the farmers of Western New York that he has made arrangements with Gen. RAWSON HARMON, by which that gentleman and the EDITOR of this paper will be united in a joint effort to teach both the Practice and the Science of Agriculture. The SCHOOL will be opened for the reception of pupils on the first of May next, at the residence of Gen. Harmon, in Wheatland, Monroe County, New York, to whom, or to the undersigned, at Buffalo, any communication relating to the subject, can be addressed.

The farm contains two hundred acres of im-

proved land, which is under excellent cultivation. Gen. H. has now sown over *fifty* distinct varieties of Winter Wheat, all of which will be subjected to accurate scientific experiments by the writer of this, during the coming season. It is believed that great and valuable improvements can be made in the culture and developement of this bread-bearing plant. It remains, however, to be demonstrated, that one-third of the labor usually expended in growing a bushel of this grain is wholly lost to the farmer and the world, by its misdirection, or unwise application. We now use too much of some things, and too little of others. The culture of Spring Wheat, Corn, Barley, Peas, Beans, Oats, Clover, Potatoes and other roots, on strict scientific principles, with a view to *lessen* the cost of their production, will receive particular attention. *Where* the things come from that make these great staples, and *what they are*, will be carefully studied.

Great pains will be taken to ascertain what animals furnish the most profitable *living machinery* for changing grass, grain, roots, straw, &c., into milk, butter, cheese, beef, pork, mutton, fat and wool. To impart a thorough knowledge of the Organic Structure of all this machinery, and of the office or function performed by each Organ, there will be minute dissections of all domestic animals. A MUSEUM, illustrative of the Anatomy and Physiology of all the living things which the farmer labors to produce, and keep in a healthy condition will also be formed. Lectures will be given in these departments of natural science, and no pains will be spared to render their study both interesting and truly useful. Work in a Chemical Laboratory for the analysis of Soils, Manures, Fertilizers, and all Vegetable and Animal substances, will form an important department in the school. Lectures will be given in this branch of science with a view to prepare Teachers of Academies and Common Schools to introduce the study of Agricultural Chemistry into these seminaries of learning. A suitable Text Book, and a cheap Apparatus for the use of school teachers and private gentlemen have long been in a course of preparation by the undersigned. Agricultural Geology will also be taught. A full course of study and practice will occupy four years; during which the pupil will be required to keep, in his own handwriting, a journal of his studies and progress, and an accurate debit and credit account of all farm operations. He will be charged for his board and tuition, washing, &c., and credited at a fair price for whatever service he may render on the farm. But we cannot promise *work and pay* for all that may offer. The object of the proprietors of this school will be to turn the labor of young men to the best possible account, and to give them the full benefit of their skill and industry.

The price of board, washing, lodging, lights,



and fire-wood, will be from \$1 50 to \$2 per week. Tuition from \$8 to \$12 per quarter. This will include instructions by Gen. Harmon, as well as the Editor's lecture fees.

Gen. Harmon's farm is regarded as admirably adapted to the establishment of such an institution. He turns off some 1,500 bushels of superior seed Wheat, every year, beside considerable seed Corn, and between forty-five and fifty fine woolled bucks. As a breeder of Sheep, he has few equals in the country. His facilities for soiling, or for keeping up sheep, cows and swine, can be estimated by practical farmers when they are informed that his basement rooms, walled in with stone laid in lime mortar, cover an area of 8,916 square feet—or more than the whole basement surface of seven 30 by 40 feet barns.

The late census returns show that Monroe County grows more Wheat than any other in the State, and more bushels per acre; and that *Wheat-land* produces more, per acre, than any other town in the county.

There is a beautiful natural pond, or lake, partly on the farm, the outlet of which is sufficient to drive a flouring mill. The shores of this sheet of water are covered with shells and shell marl, which are admirably adapted to bring up the land, with a few other fertilizers, to a high state of productiveness.

Horticulture and Fruit Culture will not be neglected at this school.

Pupils should have a good Common School Education before they enter the institution. If it shall be found desirable, competent tutors will be employed to teach the Languages and Mathematics. Assistants, if necessary, will also be engaged to aid in teaching Geology, Chemistry, Botany, Comparative Anatomy, Physiology and Meteorology. It is contemplated to have but few students; and to pay particular attention to their attainments, morals and habits. But should the Legislature ever deem it worth while to aid a little in making scientific farmers as well as scientific doctors, it is hoped that under a charter and Board of Trustees, this may become a State Agricultural School.

DANIEL LEE.

For the Southern Planter.

#### STRAW CUTTERS.

*Mr. Editor*,—Having used one of your Patent Straw Cutters for more than twelve months, and fully tested its merits, I take pleasure in saying to you, and through you to the readers of the Planter, that it is, in all respects, superior to any machine of the kind that has ever come under my observation; and such is the estimation in which I hold it, that I could not be induced to part with mine at three times the original cost, were I convinced that I could not procure another

of the same kind. It is with me a matter of some surprise, that its use has not become more general, which circumstance, I attribute to the fact, that its cost is a little more than that of a more common article; but if any subscriber to the Planter, who has been accustomed to the use of a common, *crooked blade concern*, or a box with a single blade, (perhaps an *old scythe blade*,) will procure one of your straw cutters, and give it a fair trial for twelve months, at the end of that time, if he has any inclination to return to the old plan of straw cutting, or rather of straw *mashing*, and will deposite your machine with Messrs. Deane & Brown, of Richmond, they will refund, the purchase money on my account, and I will only reserve to myself the privilege of saying he is no economist.

With the hope that your invaluable invention will, in future, be duly appreciated and liberally patronised by my brother farmers, I subscribe myself,

Your most obedient servant,

WILLIAM M. MOSELEY.

Buckingham, Jan. 20, 1846.

#### CHESTER COUNTY HOGS.

We have received several communications containing inquiries about the Chester County Hog. We take this occasion to say that Gen. Richardson, of this city, has received a very superior pair from Philadelphia, and that he will have pigs for sale early in the summer, both full and half breed; the latter from fine sows—all at moderate, farmers prices.

We are also authorized to say that Mr. Aaron Clement, of Philadelphia, has on hand for sale very superior sheep of the Cotswold, South Down and Leicester breeds. All of his sheep received premiums at the last exhibition of the Philadelphia Agricultural Society, of which he is Recording Secretary.

#### SOAKING SEED CORN IN PLASTER.

Hart Husey, Esq., of this village, took a small portion of corn with which he planted a field, soaked it in a solution of salts of nitre, commonly called saltpetre, and planted five rows with the seed thus prepared. Now for the result. The five rows planted with corn prepared with saltpetre, yielded more than twenty-five rows planted without any preparation. The five rows were untouched by the worms, while the remainder of the field suffered severely by their depredations. We should judge, that not one grain saturated with saltpetre was touched, while almost every hill in the adjoining row



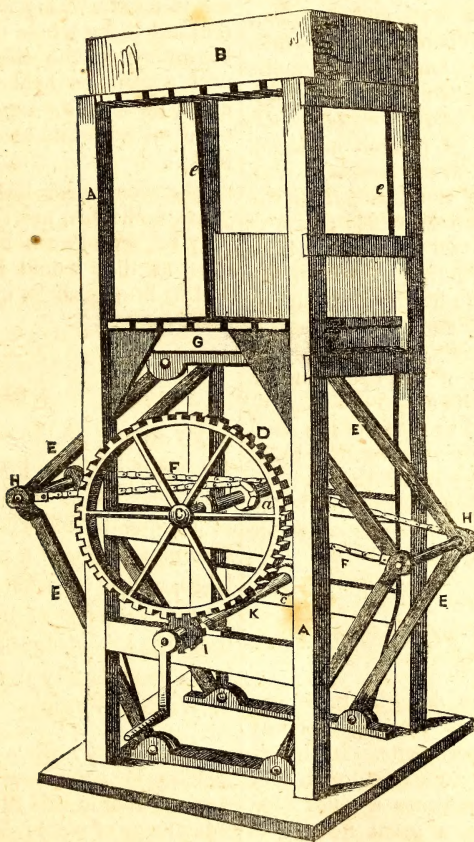
suffered severely. No one who will examine the field can doubt the efficacy of the preparation. He will be astonished at the striking difference between the five rows and the remainder of the field.

For three years we have published from time to time, experiments and statements showing the value of the saltpetre soak for corn and other seeds, and yet probably not one-tenth of our readers use this or any other soak. For several years we have soaked all our corn with the most gratifying results. None of it has ever been

touched by the grub, against which we, therefore, regard the saltpetre as a protection, and it grows with a rapidity that shames the sluggishness of grass and weeds. We planted some corn last year on the 6th of May, soaked as usual, and in just twenty-eight days it stood twenty-two inches high—ground rich but not manured this year. A pound of saltpetre in enough water to cover a bushel of corn, is about the proportion.—*Louisville Journal*.

Say one pound of saltpetre to eight gallons of water.—*Editor Ohio Cultivator*.

### HAY PRESS.



There exists a great demand in Virginia for a good hay press, and we have been favorably impressed with the construction of the one represented in the engraving. The arrangement is of a simple character, and admits of great strength in its details. The principle is an old one, and has long been applied to the printing press: it affords a very simple method of causing

the follower to traverse the space required in the compression of hay, and, as is to be desired in every press of the kind, the power is greatly increased in the latter part of the operation. We do not know exactly the price of this press, but should think a good and substantial article of the kind ought to be furnished for about a hundred dollars. It was invented and patented by



Mr. Samuel Fry, and we find it in the "Farmer and Mechanic," whose Editor, Mr. Samuel Fleet, 135 Nassau Street, New York, could probably furnish further particulars. The following is the inventors description :

"*A A* represents the frame of the press. *B* the upper head which is hung on hinges, so that it may be removed to admit the material to be compressed. *C*, a shaft carrying a spree wheel *D*, through which motion is transmitted to it, and also a number of fusees *a*, the use of which will be hereafter described. *K*, a shaft carrying a pinion *I*, which gears into the spree wheel and a ratchet wheel *c*, for retaining the power. When the press is worked by manual labor a winch is placed upon the end of this latter shaft. *E E E* the arms of the toggle joint levers, of which two or more pairs may be used, having their fulcrums at the ends and their joints *H*, in the centre. When the press works upwards, as in the modification here shown, the lower fulcrums are stationary and the upper fulcrums are fastened to the follower or platen *G*, on which the material to be pressed is placed. From the lower fulcrums strong bands of iron, *e*, extend up and pass on the head, *B*, of the press. These bands sustain the whole power of the press and prevent the two fixed points from receding from each other; they also form the hinges and fastenings of the head. *F F*, chains which are fastened by one end to the fusees, *a*, and by the other to the joints, *H*, of the levers.

"At the commencement of the operation the platen is elevated but little above the shaft *C*, and the joints are extended as far from the shaft as the chains will allow; by winding the chains on the fusees the joints are made to approach the shaft and the platen is drawn upward with a force constantly increasing until the levers are brought to a perpendicular position."

#### MORTAR FOR CELLAR FLOORS—USEFUL HINTS.

Sir,—The frost and the drought have prevailed here to the complete prevention of any successful agricultural experiments. In the absence of these, I send you an account of a very successful experiment in making a cellar floor. In England, I have seen a great number of "plaster" floors, but never saw one equal to the one in my cellar not only for hardness and durability, but for cost of materials. It is without a single crack, and as hard as a stone. It was made in the following manner:—When the plastering of my house was finished I found a quantity of refuse lime, which had not slaked soon enough for them, thrown out of the box, and after lying there a few weeks, had all become slaked, except a few lumps of unburnt

limestone; the largest of these I threw out. I then cast the lime into a large box or "mortar bed," adding a little water, and worked it well with the tools the plasterers had left. The sand I used for plastering was collected from the roads, and consequently contained much small stone. The plasterers, of course riddled it so that I had several loads of these small stones, &c., lying near the "mortar bed." I threw this into the bed and mixed it with the lime; proportion, seven or eight parts to one of lime. I am aware that those who know nothing of the chemical affinity of lime for carbonic acid and silex, would think of improving their floor by adding a larger proportion of lime, especially if they had plenty of it at hand. This would ruin their floor; put it on the land, or let it lie a nuisance sooner than spoil the floor with it.

Make the mortar stiff enough to bear wheeling in a barrow, lay it about three inches thick, making it the whole thickness as you proceed, beginning at the side opposite the door, and with a corn-hoe held with the handle perpendicular, hit it on the top gently, so as to level the surface, and unite each barrowful with the last laid.

My cellar floor has been laid six or eight years, and when newly washed the small stones may be seen (worn off level) as close to each other as they would be in a bucket of water, and as firm as shells in a block of marble.—*Exchange paper*.

#### SHEEP.

By fishing in the sea of "stuff," with which our agricultural papers are filled, we are sometimes enabled to catch up a sensible practical article like the following, taken from the "North Carolina Farmer," a paper lately started at Raleigh, which we would most heartily commend to the attention of our Southern friends. A thorough knowledge of the sheep business would be as good as fifty thousand dollars to any man in Western Virginia.

*Mr. Lemay*: Sir,—I have seen one or two articles in your new paper on the subject of raising wool in this State. I have no practical knowledge of wool raising in so warm a climate as North Carolina enjoys, especially in the Eastern part of the State. There are impediments in every department of husbandry to retard enterprise; but I feel sure that wool raising has as few drawbacks as most branches of employment. The hindrances may be summed up as follow, viz:

1. Climate and food.
2. The diseases of sheep.
3. Necessary protection to sheep.



1. THE CLIMATE of North Carolina is in many respects similar to that of Spain, where the raising of wool has long prevailed as a staple. Much of the imported wool of the United States has been brought from Spain. The latitude of the two countries is not the same, but the coldness of the Western Continent renders the climate much the same. The high or mountain districts of Spain produce the greater portion of the wool, and it is probable that the same is to be the case in North Carolina. It is a notorious fact that the Northern latitudes are the best adapted to the growth of wool. Scotland and the more northerly parts of middle Europe raise the greater part of the wool for English manufactures. The nature of sheep leads them to the hills as much as the forest courts the instinct of the bird. In cold weather sheep leave the fold and wander to some elevated spot to graze, and will only leave it in very severe weather. Sheep should never be housed; an open shelter, closed on three sides, open on the South, ought to be in the enclosure in cold weather. Horned cattle ought never to be kept in the same enclosure; yet sheep will pick much after both horses and horned cattle; perhaps a farmer may save half the feed of his sheep by allowing them to pick after his other stock: but never let them graze together or to be accessible to hogs in time of having young lambs. Sheep, if healthy, are a hardy animal.

The question, whether North Carolina has a suitable climate, and the proper food to sustain large flocks of sheep on small portions of land, is unsettled; for I hold practical experience to be the only answer admissible to questions of so much importance. That sheep do flourish and do well, in small flocks, in all parts of the State, is indisputable; as I have seen them in all sections, from the sea coast to the mountains.—Sheep of the common wool kind, have been made to yield on an average eight pounds per head for the whole flock of thirty sheep; and in one instance as high as sixteen pounds of wool was sheared from one sheep. A farmer ought to be satisfied with from four to six pounds per head, unless he uses more than ordinary care. Every branch of industry yields a profit only to labor and attention. If you read the mode of tillage that brought an unusual crop of wheat or corn, you find the land was ploughed deep, subsoiled, rolled, harrowed, manured and worked over and over, again and again. A man that wishes to raise a good field of corn must get up by daylight and see every thing right, and his land must be kept all the time loose; so if he raises sheep, he must be up at all times and see them often. Salt them, have good shade trees in his fields, or make shelters open on all sides in the summer. There is a fly peculiar to sheep pastures, besides the excessive warmth of their wool, that renders good shades

necessary—perhaps an open grove on a hill is the best shelter in summer.

The only valid objection to raising wool of a fine quality, is the changing temperature of spring. Sheep, if not sheared, would shed their coats annually. The wool matures by the end of autumn, and the new crop commences its growth as soon as the fresh grass of spring has stimulated the sheep, and produced that change that all animals experience at this season of the year. This new growth is separate in its film from the old coat, and if cut off with it ruins the whole fleece for making any fine fabric, as the new growth in carding, works up into knots and pervades the whole texture, producing weakness or rottenness. Cloth made from wool of such a character is of inferior value. This drawback is owing to the long spring. Sheep cannot, with safety, be sheared before May; grass often puts forth in March, and sometimes in February; it did so in 1842. In the Western portions of the State this evil is not so likely to befall wool raisers—as the spring is later and more abrupt. The only remedy for this evil is to feed the sheep from the barn and not let them pick grass so early, yet this would be but a partial remedy, the warm weather would stimulate reaction, and produce a change of constitution.

To introduce a fine, well reared stock, of either sheep or other domestic animals into a district where farmers are unacquainted with the mode of treatment to which they have before been accustomed, is to quadruple the disadvantages under which the trial or experiment is to be made. In the first place, the animal must undergo acclimation, if he change latitude, or even if he be but removed from the north to the south side of a range of elevated land a few miles, or *vice versa*—or if from the east to the west, and the contrary. Besides climate, the change of food owing to different soils, and the change of nature, all conspire to derange the constitution; and all changes are for the worse. The native stocks of hogs, cattle, horses, etc., are always best to rear from, and it is but a species of monomania for any man to attempt to change the entire stock of any country, or even district of country at once. The change must be gradual and keep pace with the knowledge of the nature, habits and character of the newly introduced breeds. I would not be understood as discouraging the introduction of superior animals among us—far otherwise; I would foster the enterprise by every wise and practicable means, or justifiable expense. Daily experience teaches us that the correct way to improve stock, is to do it gradually. I would suggest this rule as the safest way of procedure to any man who desires to improve his stock, viz: to first take some good agricultural paper for twelve months and there read carefully the best means to improve his farm, (for sure as he



is living improved stock comes from improved farms,) after he has read and practised improved farming, tried a few new grapes, and has put a few acres in clover to feed his pigs, calves and lambs on, then he may safely order a fine blooded bull, boar and buck to range among his cows, sows and sheep, at the proper season. And on the subject of the right time in the year, for allowing the free intercourse of bucks and ewes much of the success of sheep rearing depends. The bucks should be kept up until such time as will effectually prevent the too early production of lambs in the spring. In any effort to rear a fine animal, care must be taken from the very first that it does not become stunted. More depends on the first year's growth, in any animal than ever after. If the animal is neglected the first year of its growth, give it up, and try another.

In adopting the native stock to rear from, we have all the produce of native and sound constitution and not liable to the vicissitudes of climate. Most, if not all, the discredit of the Berkshire humbug, as some call it, would have been avoided by observing the above method—of first learning what sort of food is most suitable to the animal and having it provided ready, when he first needed it. Sir, agriculture and improvement of stock must go hand in hand.

The food of improved stock has been of a very superior grade to that growing on our worn-out hills and old fields. The imported sheep have been nursed with great care by persons who are shepherds in fact, and if we are to raise sheep, we too must turn shepherds. It will never do to say to every negro, do so and so through the spring; and so and so through the summer, and so on for the year with my sheep; but every man must daily inspect his sheepfold; (for such he must have, secure from without and within,) he must look to his flock carefully; if one is sick it must be separated from the flock and taken the strictest care of.—It must be separated from the flock, because most diseases of sheep are contagious or at least contaminating, and liable to infect the whole flock more or less—as the old adage has it—“one smutty nozed sheep will spoil the whole flock.” There is more truth than fiction in the old saying. It must be nursed, because the constitution of sheep soon sinks under disease; and if once a flock of sheep become weakly and sickly, it runs out. There is no restoring a puny flock of sheep. The food for a better flock of sheep than we now have must be commensurate with the grade. The finer the breed of sheep the more delicate the nature of the animal and the greater care must be taken of it. Sheep must be sustained at all seasons of the year.—It is the nature of sheep to graze, and in North Carolina they can do so most of the year. In the winter a few oats are the best support weak

sheep can have. On the subject of diet and diseases, every sheep raiser should be provided with a full treatise. It costs but little, and is of the first importance—buy one.

Mr. Lemay, I will give you something on the protection of sheep, soon.

Yours, &c.

M. R.

Wake County, Nov. 12, 1845.

#### THE NORTHERN NECK.

We have received a communication complaining of the supineness of the farmers in the Northern Neck of Virginia, and begging us to awaken them to a sense of their true interests. Our correspondent is much better fitted to the task than we are, and we invite him to occupy the columns of the Planter with such subjects as would be most interesting to his friends and neighbors.

For the Southern Planter.

#### BACON.

*Mr. Editor.*—Amongst the many excellent things that I have found in the Planter, I have been a little disappointed at seeing nothing about an art for which the farmers of Virginia are so famous, I mean the curing of bacon. Will you be so good as to give us particular directions for the best method of curing and preserving hams, and thereby oblige

A LOVER OF GOOD BACON.

Long Meadow, North Carolina.

Dr. Robert Nelson, of Hanover, will please teach this gentleman how to make bacon.

#### CULTURE OF CORN IN DRILLS. PLANTING MACHINES.

*Mr. Bateham.*—A neighbor and friend of mine called upon me to act as his amanuensis; and he has dictated to me the following communication for your paper, which I have the pleasure to transmit to you at his request.

Truly your friend,

D. LAPHAM.

Mount Tabor, February, 1845.

*Mr. Editor.*—I am an old hard-fisted farmer, and I can also blow the bellows and run the jointer; but I have had little practice in using the “grey goose quill.” I want to say a few words, however, in the columns of the Cultivator, on the subject of raising corn.

It is the common practice in this section of the State, to furrow the ground both ways, about four feet apart, and to drop the corn by hand at the intersection of the furrows. In this



way it requires one horse and four hands to plant the corn: one to strike the furrows, one to drop and two to cover. In order that the dropping may proceed, as fast as the horse walks, and not delay those who cover, the dropper must be very busily engaged, and he cannot take pains in dropping either to place the hills in the furrows so as to line each way, or to regulate the number of grains in the hill. It is a necessary consequence of the manner in which it is done that the hills will generally contain too many grains, (which must be pulled out after the corn gets up,) and that the hills in one way will not be in straight rows, which makes it very difficult to plough and tend the corn in the direction of the crooked rows.

You are aware how inveterately most farmers will pursue their old habit, and how slowly the most obvious improvements are generally introduced amongst the farmers; and how difficult it is to convince them, that there is any better method than that which they were taught in early life, and have pursued from their youth up.

These prejudices, however, are fast fading away, and better practices are beginning to be introduced by the aid of an increased diffusion of science and intelligence amongst the farmers.

Among the many improvements which are now gradually coming into general use, is that of raising corn in drills, instead of the old method, in hills. It is very evident, that a greater quantity of corn can be raised on an acre in drills than by the common method; and this may result in two ways. When only the same number of stalks of corn are grown on an acre, it is evident that by distributing the stalks along the line of the drill, instead of crowding them together in hills, they can obtain more food from the soil, and they will be better exposed to the influence of the sun and atmosphere, and consequently will yield a greater crop. But it has been repeatedly proven by actual trial, that a greater number of stalks, and consequently more ears of corn can be raised on an acre by planting in drills than by the common method.

An acre planted in hills four feet apart, and four stalks in a hill, will have 2,722 hills, or 10,888 stalks; and if each stalk produces only one good ear on an average, and 100 of such ears make a half bushel of shelled corn, the produce of an acre will be  $54\frac{1}{2}$  bushels.

An acre planted in drills three feet apart, and the stalks standing six inches apart in the rows, will have 29,040 stalks; and the produce of the acre, at the same rate as above will be  $145\frac{1}{2}$  bushels.

An acre planted in drills of double rows, six inches apart, and the drills three feet nine inches from centre to centre will have 30,970 stalks; and the produce of the acre, at the same rates as above will be  $154\frac{1}{2}$  bushels.

The above examples show most clearly by

actual calculation, the great advantage there is in drilling over the old system, in the greater number of stalks, and increased quantity of corn, independent of the other advantages above stated, of more food and better exposure to the sun and air.

We will now see what has been done by actual experience, in raising corn by the drill system.

E. Cornell, Itheca, Tompkins County, New York, raised an acre of the variety, called brown corn, the produce of which, was 105 bushels 15 pounds. This corn was planted the first week in June; and a portion failing to come up, was re-planted on the 12th of June. The rows were three feet apart, and hills ten inches apart in the rows.—*From the Transactions of the New York State Agricultural Society. Quoted in Gen. Farmer, Vol. V. page 18, 1844.*

Asa Williams, of the town of Barre, Orleans County, New York, raised a premium crop of corn, in the year 1843; the following extract is from his own statement. The land was "ploughed twice—once each way, about the 6th day of May; about the 10th, planted furrows in rows about two feet apart, and hills about one foot apart in the row—three kernels in each hill. It was hoed three times, making as little hill as possible, and no cultivator or drag was used on it. The committee of the Agricultural Society came to the field and measured off one acre.—They counted the rows in the acre, and then selected one row, which they deemed to be an average row. They then appointed a man to husk and shell it; the product was measured, and the crop on the acre from the product of this row, was estimated at one hundred and fifty-seven bushels and thirty quarts, by measure; and by weight, at 154 bushels, 21 pounds."—*Gen. Farmer, Vol. V. page 43, 1844.*

B. Butler, Esq., of Chenango County, New York, raised 140 bushels of corn from one acre. The land was ploughed but once, but this was done in the best manner. Rolled and harrowed with the furrow. The corn was planted on the 22d and 23d of May, in double drills three and a half feet from centre to centre. The plants standing singly from twelve to thirteen inches apart on the main drill.—*Gen. Farmer, Vol. V. page 43, 1844.*

These examples are sufficient to show the correctness of the calculations made above, and the great advantage which the drill system possesses over the common method of planting in hills. The drill system likewise presents another important advantage, by the facility with which its operations may be performed by means of labor-saving machinery.

This communication is intended as an introduction to another (should this be published) in which I propose to give a description of a planting machine, which I have been engaged this



winter in constructing. This machine is constructed to drop and cover the corn, with a horse; dispensing with the labor of furrowing the ground, &c. I have also another portable machine calculated only for dropping the corn, by which one man is enabled to keep up with a horse, and drop the corn so as to row both ways with great exactness.

I shall have something to say, in my next, relative to the method of tending corn, when it is planted in drills.

Your friend, SENECA.

#### LIME—CLOVER.

That the application of lime to the soil is productive of the most beneficial results in some cases, whilst it is wholly inoperative in others, is a fact placed beyond the pale of controversy. If we could only ascertain the precise nature of its operation, we might learn without the expense of experiment when its application would be money thrown away. So very important is this knowledge, that a thousand *guesses* have been made upon the subject, and amongst them some very ingenious theories have been started, but none that are entirely sufficient to account for all the phenomena that have come within even our limited observation. The action of lime is undoubtedly a chemical one, and varies with the salts, the acids, and the alkalis with which it comes in contact; it is also greatly modified by moisture and temperature, and it is, therefore, not wonderful that there should be a great discrepancy in its results. In the last number of the "Monthly Journal of Agriculture" we find, copied from the Transactions of the Highland Agricultural Society of Scotland, an essay from the pen of Mr. Robert M'Turk, to whom was awarded the premium of a silver medal. He makes the whole value of lime depend upon its causticity, or freedom from carbonic acid gas. Such is the affinity of lime for this gas, universally prevalent in the atmosphere, that it can only be expelled by the application of heat, and its purity can only be secured by exclusion from the atmosphere; hence it is necessary as soon as it has been disintegrated by slaking, to deposite it in the soil, at a depth secure from the action of the atmosphere. In this position Mr. M'Turk supposes it to come in contact with innumerable woody fibres, the residuum of roots and other vegetable matter that have resisted the common process of putrefaction. The

strong affinity that the caustic lime has for any acid, causes it to attract some of the component parts of this vegetable matter; its structure is thus broken up; in the chemical changes which ensue gases are evolved, which in their ascension open the soil; through these openings the heat of the sun penetrates, which with the warmth always attendant upon chemical action produces a temperature sufficient to induce entire putrefaction in the hitherto undecomposed vegetable matter, and this inert mass is hereby, in solution or in a gaseous form, taken up as food by the plants in the soil.

This is all very pretty and may be very true, but how does it account for the wonderful effects produced by the application of marl in the tide water country of Virginia, since in this marl the lime is always found in the form of a *carbonate*?

Mr. M'Turk imagined that it was by this operation of caustic lime upon the hard coating of certain seeds, that the germ was liberated, and hence the springing of white clover after liming; from this he was inclined to suspect that when clover seed was turned in with other grain, as is usual in this part of the world, it was buried too deep for the action of heat and moisture, and he, therefore, instituted some experiments to which we would direct the attention of Mr. Bolling Jones. These experiments we will give in his own words:

"On the 12th May, 1841, we had a piece of land, well dug and cleaned, divided into nine parts, by means of pins driven into the ground, and division-boards nailed to them to keep them firm in their places. The use of the division-boards was not only to divide the portions of ground separately, but also when the ground was levelled within them the exact depth of earth in each division might be measured.

"No. 1. Six feet square; the clover seed sown on the surface.

"No. 2. Ditto; the clover seed raked in gently.

"No. 3. Ditto; half an inch of cover.

"No. 4. Ditto; six-eighths of cover, one-half of the division compressed by treading, and afterwards smoothed.

"No. 5. Ditto; one inch of cover, and the other half compressed.

"No. 6. Ditto; one inch and a quarter of cover, the other half compressed and smoothed.

"No. 7. Ditto; one inch and a half of cover, the other half compressed and smoothed.

"No. 8. Ditto; two inches of cover, one-half compressed and smoothed.

"No. 9. Ditto; two inches and a half of co-



ver, one-half compressed and smoothed like the rest.

"After the one-half of the divisions, Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, were compressed by treading upon them, and smoothing them with the back of a spade, the one-half of each of the nine divisions in the opposite direction received an ordinary liming. The weather, for some time after the 12th, was mild, and sufficiently moist to forward germination. Nos. 1, 2 and 3, were in an active state of germination on the 19th day of the month; No. 4 on the 21st, and the compressed division not till the 25th; No. 5 on the 24th, and the compressed and limed division not till the 1st of June, the other some time afterwards; No. 6 germinated only on the limed divisions; the uncompressed about the middle, and towards the end of June; No. 7 exhibited at this time, no appearance of clover, and afterwards a few plants appeared on the limed divisions, some time after the removal of the weeds which had germinated upon it; and this operation, no doubt, promoted both the action of the lime and the germination of the seeds, by allowing the air more ready access to those parts from which the roots had been extracted; and also, not improbably, by bringing some of the clover seeds nearer the surface. On Nos. 8 and 9 we had no clover plants in the course of the season.—On Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4, we could observe no difference on account of the lime, though applied in a hot or caustic state; and the reason we conceive why it had no influence on these divisions was because they were placed under circumstances so favorable to germination that it was effected before the action of the lime commenced; and that on Nos. 5, 6 and 7, which were under circumstances less favorable, the germination did not take place till stimulated by the action of the lime; and whether it will have any influence on Nos. 8 and 9, next summer will show.

"The practical inference we would draw from these experiments, in the first place, is this—Is the present system of sowing clover calculated to promote germination? We have no hesitation in saying that it is precisely the reverse; for, when sown with rye-grass seed and harrowed in, in the usual way, it cannot fail to be too deeply covered, and the consequence of the rolling, which is now a general practice, must also increase the evil. It is, perhaps, from this cause that we always see the best braird of clover on the hard and gravelly parts of the field, and we, therefore, conclude that that is the land best suited for its growth, when, in fact, we are inclined to think that, under the present system of sowing, harrowing, and rolling, it is only the best adapted for the germination of the seed from its more permeable nature. It might be worthy of investigation to ascertain how far the present system of management will account for

the falling off of the crops of red clover, which has been experienced for some years back; for the germination of the seed of this plant requires circumstances not less favorable than that of the white. To ascertain this point, it would only require to be sown by itself, after the rye-grass is harrowed in, and might be tried either with or without rolling.

"There is another practical application that may also be drawn from the view we have advanced regarding the action of lime upon decomposable matter. We have imputed to this action nearly the whole benefit resulting to the crop from its application. If this view is well founded, it must follow that its application to land which naturally contains but little, or which has been exhausted of its decomposable matter by overcropping, or otherwise, (for much ploughing, by exposing the soil to the action of the atmosphere, also tends to decompose animal or vegetable matter, and the crops to exhaust it,) can be attended with little or no advantage, and it is from this cause that the first application of lime is always attended with the best effect from the undiminished accumulation of this matter in the soil. The application of dung or any other manure to the soil, to use a familiar illustration, is like giving a feed of corn to a horse—it tends to strengthen and nourish; while lime may be regarded as the application of the whip or spur—it imparts no new strength, but stimulates into action the power which previously existed."

#### RAISING TURKEYS.

Soon after the turkey-poults have acquired their first feathers, they are liable to a disease which is very fatal to them, if not attended to. This distemper produces great debility, and the birds appear languid and drooping, and almost totally neglect their food. Their tail and wing-feathers assume a whitish appearance, and their plumage has a bristled aspect. This is occasioned by a disease in two or three of the rump-feathers. On examination the tubes of these will be found filled with blood. The only remedy for this disease is to pluck them out, when the bird will speedily acquire its wonted health and spirits.

In fattening turkeys for the table, various methods are resorted to. Some feed them on barley meal mixed with skim-milk, and confine them a-coop during this time; others merely confine them to a house; while a third class allow them to run quite at liberty; which latter practice, from the experience of those on whose judgment we can most rely, is by far the best method.—Care should, however, be taken to feed them abundantly before they are allowed to range about in the morning, and a meal should also be prepared for them at mid-day, to which they



will generally repair homewards of their own accord. They should be fed at night, before roosting, with oat-meal and skim-milk; and a day or two previous to their being killed, they should get oats exclusively. We have found, from experience, that when turkeys are purchased for the table, and cooped up, they will never increase in bulk, however plentifully they may be supplied with food and fresh water, but on the contrary, are very liable to lose flesh.—When feeding them for use, a change of food will also be found beneficial. Boiled carrots and Swedish turnips, or potatoes mixed with a little barley or oat-meal, will be greedily taken by them. A cruel method is practiced by some to render turkeys very fat, which is termed cramming. This is done by forming a paste of crumbs of bread, flour, minced suet, and sweet milk, or even cream, into small balls about the bulk of a marble, which is passed over the throat after full ordinary meals.—*Farmers' Library.*

#### AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

We are opposed to all wild schemes of extravagant appropriation from the public fund, because we know that every cent that goes into the public treasury of the State is abstracted from the active capital of her citizens; but there are some subjects of universal and undisputed importance to which it seems the fostering hand of government should be carefully extended.—Amongst these the endowment of schools and colleges stands pre-eminent. Besides the institutions for general information which have been so liberally endowed by the State, the military profession have a school at Lexington and another is warmly urged at Richmond; the legal and the medical profession have schools devoted to these particular sciences, whilst the agriculturist and the mechanic must learn his business as he can. Isn't it rather curious to see a community of farmers legislating most liberally for every profession but their own? We would call the attention of the people to this anomaly, and propose that the great agricultural State of Virginia at the next session of the Legislature endow a school for the promotion of agriculture and the mechanic arts. This is the people's business, and to the people we address ourselves. We believe that one of the greatest errors of the times is the general and indefinite character of education. A boy ought to be educated with a view to his particular calling. A general notion of the sciences and some literary cultivation is not less useful than elegant, but to these

should be united a thorough grounding in the profession which he is to follow. Until he has attained this, he is not fit to go into the world, and his education is not complete. Thus, after he leaves school or college, the intended merchant serves his apprenticeship in the counting-house, the mechanic goes to the shop, the lawyer to the office, and the physician to the medical college. But what becomes of the boy who is designed for the profession of agriculture?—He has to grope his way as he can through the secrets of his profession. Age after age, each follower of this pursuit enters upon it without any more instruction than the hap hazard teaching of neighbors and friends may afford him, whilst all the advantages of systematic instruction and all the benefit of the accumulated wisdom of ages is lost to him and to his profession. Books may do something—books are doing a great deal, but there is an infinite deal of the mechanics of agriculture that can never be learned from books. It is this branch of the profession that is most neglected, and in our opinion, it is the most important. For this reason we wouldn't give a fig for a *professorship* of agriculture. We want a school in which the art as well as the science of agriculture shall be taught. We want a school exactly like the Institute at Lexington, with the exception of substituting agricultural for military exercises. To know how to kill men is all very proper and sometimes very necessary, but it is hardly less useful to teach the great art of feeding and clothing them. Handling a hoe is not more degrading whilst it is infinitely more profitable than handling a musket, and running a furrow is not more laborious nor less useful than mounting guard over nothing.

We want a school in which during a portion of the day competent teachers shall impart information in the several departments of a classical and scientific education, and in which other teachers who shall be entirely competent to the task, shall teach the practical part of the art of agriculture. The boys should be taught to *drill*—corn; to plant, not standards, but potatoes; to open, not trenches, but ditches; to clean, not cavalry, but work-horses; in short, to be creative rather than destructive. Here it is that the use and principles of agricultural implements should be thoroughly taught, in the only way that they can be thoroughly taught, by actual practice. In this State it is not likely that the farmer



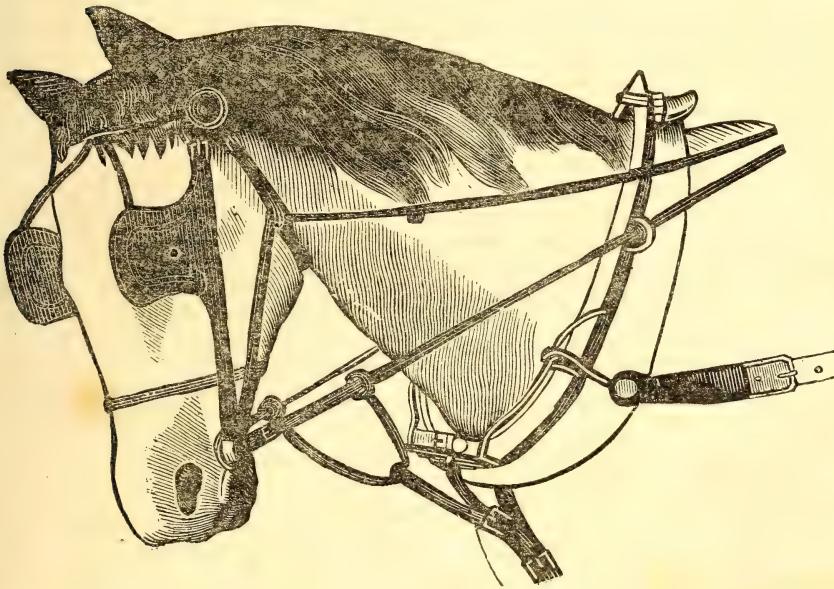
would ever be called upon to dress a horse himself, but nevertheless he should know how it ought to be done, (a knowledge, by-the-by, that is confined to very few,) that he may teach his groom, or see that he does his duty. How many of our farmers are totally ignorant of the mechanical construction of a plough, an instrument that is as important to them as a plane to a carpenter. Generally speaking, the agricultural community of Virginia, although one of the best informed upon general subjects, are so ignorant of mechanical principles that they are hardly to be trusted with a machine more complicated than an axe or a hoe. Ingenuity may devise labor-saving machines for the mechanic

that will expedite his operations an hundredfold, but what can it do for a farmer, who hardly knows how one cog-wheel drives another. This kind of knowledge has become absolutely necessary, and it must be taught—taught in schools prepared and adapted for the purpose.

There is only one way to get such a school established—instructions to the Legislature must be gotten up in every county—the friends of agriculture must take them in charge and get them signed—this is the only voice to which our Legislature will, or ought to listen.

If we find this notion properly seconded by our friends and patrons, we will press it further on a future occasion.

### IMPROVED HAMES.



We have received from Mr. Samuel L. Post, of New York, a cut and description of an improvement in the hames for horse collars, which we here insert. The improvement consists of the lever and hooks, as represented in the engraving, which may be attached to the common hames. The hook plays freely upon the lever, which by its position causes the collar to be pressed evenly upon all parts of the shoulder at once. With these hames, it is said, that such a thing as galling is hardly possible. For further information apply to Samuel L. Post, corner of Broadway and Murray streets, New York.

For the Southern Planter.

### HINTS TO AGRICULTURISTS.

We have had a most infelicitous season for ploughing, and carting out manure; let me beg all young people, and old ones also, who have been in the habit of working, or carting on land out of order, to beware; there is nothing which more surely blasts the hope of a fine crop, than meddling with wet land. Some persons think it is getting late, and we must plough our corn land, haul out manure, &c. I have known Thomas W. Gooch, Esq., deceased, plant corn in June, rather than plough out of order, and every one in Albemarle well knows his great



success in making this and other crops; also in improving a large and worn-out farm. Land ploughed wet is left in a situation which prevents its retention of moisture; if stiff, it will not in twelve months become friable, and if sandy, the injury will not be so great; yet the difference in crops, and the situation of the land afterwards, may be plainly observed.

I have made a pen of manure under cover, twenty-five feet long, fifteen feet wide and twelve feet high on the lower side, not so much on the upper; a load of leaves, do. ditch bank or rich dirt, do. stable manure, then plaster, about a half gallon; it has been up some time, and on examination, more than meets my expectations. There has been no *visible* evaporation from the heap, which would have been great from a pile of such size, made of stable litter alone. I believe we can from twelve horses make at least two such heaps per annum. This manure will be used on tobacco land ploughed last fall, harrowed in February, shovelled as soon as the weather will permit, again harrowed, run off three feet eight inches wide with a shovel plough, (in March or April,) by dropping half a gallon (about) three feet four inches apart, hill made over each deposite. All our tobacco land is now sufficiently rich for wheat, and we shall manure no more broadcast except new lots. Every one should make a new lot each year, until his estate becomes a *unit*, or sufficiently rich for tobacco from end to end. My farm-pen has a much larger amount of manure than on any previous occasion; we put several hundred loads of leaves in last spring and summer after cleaning up; the cattle are kept on this every night in the year, and day and night from 1st November to 1st May; the milch cows and work oxen are fed with the others on stalks, shucks, chaff, straw, &c., besides, they have in stalls, chop mixed with cut shucks or chaff: they are all in good order, plenty of milk and butter, and for sale! The idea that cattle penned in summer don't do well will be found fallacious if they are grazed on good pastures, and well littered.

Our corn is cut off at the ground and stacked in piles from half a barrel at first to one barrel when others are pulling fodder and cutting tops. The feed thus saved is fine for mares and colts, cattle, &c. The shucks from corn thus saved are very nutritious; we usually haul large quantities home, and plough the land ready for seeding wheat; thus when we begin, our wheat crop is sowed in a short time; the stacks are tied at top with a split to prevent their tumbling. Our horses are in fine order, and have had no hay or oats to speak of; the chop is one-third wheat bran, one-third ship-stuff, and one-third corn meal mixed with cut shucks; the horses work hard and they have three gallons of the above mixture per diem. All grain should be

ground for stock of all kinds; the saving is great, and the health of the animals better.

Randolph Harrison, Esq., Sr., who was one of the first men of his day, as well as one of the most successful farmers and planters in Virginia, said, that good hauling and ploughing were two of the first requisites; there is nothing surer; we often see poor starved horses or oxen tugging an affair almost a load for them if in order, no room for a load on top, &c., and as for the ploughs in common use, a Northern man would not have them as a present: not one man in a hundred can tell whether or not his plough be in or out of pitch; this every man should learn.

I have a fine chance for a corn crop this year, and wish you to see it several times from 1st May to 1st August. In the February number of the Planter I find some one speaking of thick planting, says he planted three and a half feet each way and had two stalks in a hill (high land.) Now my idea is, that corn on common high land should not be planted closely; but when you have rich bottom land, go it! I shall try several acres this season at various distances; four feet by eighteen inches, two stalks to the hill, made here, in 1845, more than some three feet by eighteen inches, two stalks per hill; the latter was greatly injured by chinch bug, so I will try it again, and let you see, or know the result. Mayo Cabell, Esq., of Nelson, had a great crop in 1844 and 1845, also; he did not take account, I believe, of the quantity made in 1845, but in a number of the Planter, in 1844, he stated his crop on a lot at twenty-two barrels and some bushels, as well as I remember. I saw both crops, and think the last beat the former: they were each two and a half feet by from six to eight inches. There is little danger of planting first rate, moist low grounds, too thick, but take care, on ordinary land, flat, or not, you had better make a little less every year than have a feast than a fast.

We have a large crop of tobacco on hand, and I will give you the outlines of the management, if we get a good price.

W. W. GILMER.

Leigh, Feb. 20, 1846.

#### CHURNING BUTTER.

As your paper is intended as a medium to spread abroad every thing useful to farmers, and ladies, or dairy women, in their several occupations, I am led, through it, to communicate a fact, accidentally discovered by me, relative to the churning of butter, which I have heretofore found a laborious job in winter. I set some frozen cream in a tin vessel on my fire-frame one night—the next morning I found the cream full as warm as milk when first taken from a cow. On first placing it in the churn, it required not



more than two minutes churning before the butter comes, as we say. To show that this was not a solitary instance, I have ever since placed my cold, and frozen cream, in a vessel, and so placed it as that it should slowly become as warm as above named, when, not once only, but uniformly the same result has taken place. Let any one who is desirous, try this mode, and my word for it, they will find the above verified, which does away the fatigue of a long and sometimes doubtful churning. If the cream is moderately warmed to the extent named, I will warrant the result to be as above.—*Indiana Farmer.*

There is nothing so important in the process of churning as the temperature of the cream. The cream ought to be cooled in summer and warmed in winter. There is no difficulty about the butter coming if the cream is kept at a temperature of about seventy degrees. They have a churn at the North so constructed that a smaller cylinder containing the cream is placed within a larger one so that the space between them may be filled with hot or cold water, at pleasure. To this churn a thermometer is attached for the better regulating the temperature.

#### TO CURE SHEEP SKINS WITH THE WOOL ON.

Take a spoonful of alum and two of saltpetre; pulverize and mix well together, then sprinkle the powder on the flesh side of the skin, and lay the two flesh sides together, leaving the wool outside. Then fold up the skin as tight as you can, and hang it in a dry place. In two or three days, as soon as it is dry, take it down and scrape it with a blunt knife, till clean and supple. This completes the process, and makes you a most excellent saddle cover. If, when you kill your mutton, you treat the skins this way, you can get more for them from the saddler, than you can get for the wool and skin separately disposed of otherwise.

Other skins which you desire to cure with the fur or hair on, may be treated in the same way.—*Selected.*

For the Southern Planter.

#### MR. GOWAN'S LETTER.

*Mr. Editor*,—I need not observe to those of your subscribers who have read Mr. Gowan's letter to me (published in the October number of the Planter) that our worthy friend Mr. Miller, so far from having reviewed it, as he professes to do in the January number, has not approached within cannon shot distance even, of comprehending it in its true spirit and scope.—Of those, however, who have not read Mr.

Gowan's letter, I will merely request, as an act of justice to that most enlightened, public spirited and successful agriculturist, that they will read and compare it with Mr. Miller's "review."

One remark of Mr. Miller is particularly amusing, to wit: that Mr. Gowan is "not qualified to do justice to grain crops." Possibly it may be so—but as Mr. G. has raised crops of rye averaging over forty-five bushels to the acre; of wheat, averaging over fifty—and of Indian corn, averaging over one hundred bushels—(see the Farmers' Cabinet, Vol. 8, page 272)—the remark of Mr. Miller would have come with a better grace if he had given us the average of his own crops.

Very respectfully, yours,

WILLIAM H. RICHARDSON.

Richmond, February, 1846.

#### CONTINUANCE OF MILK IN COWS.

A correspondent of the Albany Cultivator says: "It certainly would be a very great advantage to those who wish to keep a cow or cows, solely for their milk, if any feasible method could be adopted by which cows could be made permanent milkers, or their owners, particularly those who live in cities, be saved the trouble and inconvenience of their breeding. There are two ways in which this seems practicable. The first method is to keep the cow in milk, from the bull by constantly stabling her, after her first and second calf, and in this state, milked regularly, and well fed, she will continue to give milk for two or more years. She usually ends, however, by becoming too fat for profit, as a milker, her milk gradually failing, and she then goes to the butcher. The large dairies of London have their cows treated in this manner, and in practice it is found far preferable to the old one, of having them 'come in' annually.

"There is another method of obtaining constant milkers which has been extensively practiced in France, and known, to some extent, in this country. This is by *spaying the cow* some four or six weeks after calving, and thus by preventing impregnation, securing the cow in milk for several years. In the London Veterinarian may be found a paper by M. Rogere, of Bordeaux, in France, who had for many years been engaged in a series of experiments on this subject, that had been eminently successful. The cows operated upon were of various ages, some quite old. The operation of spaying was followed with a restricted diet to prevent the tendency to inflammation. This had the effect of reducing the quantity of milk for a few days, but the flow soon returned, and continued unaffected for a long time. No danger was incurred by the operation when skilfully performed, and when from age or failure of milk, it became de-



sirable to make beef of the animal, she was found altogether superior for that purpose to the unspayed ones.

"In one of the earlier volumes of Ruffin's Farmers' Register may be found a paper on spaying cows or heifers, not only for milk, but for feeding. Mr. Tabb, of Virginia, under whose superintendence the operation was conducted, confirms the representations made of the value of milch cows so operated upon, but thinks it not less essential or important where cows or heifers are to be fed. The following extract is from Mr. Tabb's report: 'The operation is performed on heifers not intended for milk when they are about a year old, and with the single precaution of keeping them entirely from food or water during twenty-four or thirty-six hours previous—is not attended with the least risk—is performed in the same way, and may be done by any person in the habit of spaying pigs.—They go to their food immediately after, and require no attention. We select the most indifferent heifers to spay, which is one way to improve the stock. You increase the size amazingly. They gradually become as large as ordinary oxen; are easily kept; make the finest beef; and as they are not in perfection until six or seven years old, we work them after three or four, to make them gentle, and for that purpose consider them superior to the ox.'

"The practice of working milch cows is common in Germany, as appears from the accounts of various travellers in that country; and teams of spayed heifers have carried off prizes at the ploughing matches of agricultural societies, in England. The suggestion made above, by Mr. Tabb, as to the practice of spaying having a good effect in the improvement of stock, is an important one. If the breeders of stock could so far forego the hope of immediate profit, as to be willing to submit all inferior or part blood bull calves to castration, and all inferior heifers to spaying, it is evident the chances of breeding inferior animals would diminish rapidly.

"Mr. Winn, keeper of an extensive hotel at Natchez, communicated to Judge Peters, of Pennsylvania, the result of experiments made by him in spaying cows for the purpose of securing permanent milkers. It appears from the paper, as given in the transactions of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Society, that he had two cows, which, after being spayed, gave milk constantly for three years each. He preferred cows that had produced two or three calves, as the bags of such would be more capacious than if spayed after the first calf. I hope some of our breeders or farmers will try this experiment, since, if successful, there can be no doubt, such cows would command greatly advanced prices in places where cows are kept for their milk alone."

For the Southern Planter.

#### ROADS.

MR. C. T. BOTTS:

*Dear Sir,*—I so often have your name and your labors presented to me through the medium of the Planter, that I must address you as if an old and intimate personal acquaintance. And I was most earnestly persuaded, that our present General Assembly would have taken this region of country under their stewardship, and so improved the highway through our country, that you would be tempted to visit our region, where, if you would not learn any thing useful, you might see much to encourage you to press onward in your laudable efforts in behalf of "the nursing mother of the Arts." But I do not agree with you on the subject of roads. I am for that road which will enable me when I kill my pork, to send it the next day to Richmond; and with such a road, you would not this year have paid a cent over five dollars for your pork, and so of all else we have to sell. It is remarkable, that mighty efforts should be made north and south of us to secure the travel and trade of the West, by all the facilities consequent upon steam-boats and steam-cars, whilst we cannot be successfully moved to an effort in behalf of the old-fashioned wagon and its Conestoga stallions. Shall we give up the contest for the trade and travel of the West, and the whole trade of nearly three hundred thousand people of East Tennessee, sustaining a commerce of nearly twelve millions of dollars? All of which at one time passed through this region of Virginia, mostly to and from Baltimore. But our Southern friends have fixed an unwinking eye upon the trade of Tennessee, and by their railway, directed to the centre, if not through the State, must inevitably divert from our borders the entire commerce of that eminently productive country, the most abundant at this time in meal and meat, perhaps in the Union. Surely the efforts north and south of us, to penetrate the back country, and draw to their respective markets the commerce and travel of the interior, should awaken our statesmen and urge them to the improvement of the commanding advantages Virginia possesses for successful rivalry with North and South. I will not enlarge upon our own suffering region, in itself so worthy of the utmost energies of the State—so often and so strongly presented to public consideration.—Our statesmen doubt the calculations made in relation to the remunerative character of the road desired by the people of the South-West. If the proprietor of Ingles's ferry, on New River, would risk the expenditure of seventeen thousand dollars in the construction of a bridge, with ferries above and below him within six miles, contending for the travel of this great thoroughfare, surely the State might derive therefrom



encouragement to combat in a scheme of internal improvement which would most assuredly increase the present travel and tonnage. The bridge alluded to, has, I understand, averaged annually above ten per cent. Aside from this, eighty miles of the proposed South-Western road, would be, as the common road now is, the highway of a great intercourse between the West and the Northern part of North Carolina and the Southern portion of our own State.—Improvement of some kind through this region I regard as a matter of great agricultural interest, and am fearful of having drawn too largely upon your time and patience, but I could not well say less.

I am pleased with your notice in the *Planter* of new books and have sent for the "American Shepherd." This is the region of Virginia for wool growing, but our fathers did not commence in that way and we have thereby much to overcome; there are some among *us* who would walk half a mile out of their way to kick a sheep.

I have been induced by your communication of the *Richmond Plough* to desire a friend to examine it, and purchase, if suitable for our heavy soil. The engraving of the mouldboard is good, but such a beam and handles!

You recommend the late improvement on common mills for grinding corn, cob and shuck—cost from \$75 to \$150. In the *Planter* for April, 1844, John Lewis, of Kentucky, recommends a similar improvement, at a cost of \$15.

The improvement noticed from an *English* paper in the last *Planter*, in relation to hames and the saddle, is worthy of your continued attention; it promises something available.

Now for the most interesting and important part of my letter, the bearer will hand you my dollar for the support of the *Planter* another year.

Yours, &c.

AGRICOLA.

*Wythe County, Jan. 1, 1846.*

We are every inch a Virginian, and nothing is more dear to us than the interests of this good old Commonwealth. We would rejoice if every farmer in the State had a rail-road running by his barn directly to market, and if it only depended upon our will, he should not be without it for twenty-four hours. But how is he to get it? that is the question. He won't contribute a dollar to it himself, because it would be a bad investment; if bad for him, it surely would not be a good one for any body else. It may be that a rail-road from Richmond to the Tennessee line, or from Richmond to the Ohio River, would be a good investment, but if we owned the whole country between this and the Ohio River, and were offered the loan of twelve millions of dol-

lars on it at six per cent. per annum, as at present advised, we would not lay it out in making a rail-road; would you, my cautious friend?—Whether the State *ought* to make improvements that individuals peculiarly interested in them will not make, may be a matter of doubt; but that she *will* not do it, is, we think, pretty satisfactorily settled. Gentlemen talk about patriotism, and the good of the country, and the narrow-mindedness which limits our expenditures to our own benefit, but in our attendance upon the debates in the House, this winter, we have been forcibly struck with the fact, that all this patriotism and love of country, seem to be confined to those gentlemen interested in the particular improvement. It is really wonderful to see what a flame of patriotism a bill for a road or canal will kindle along the whole line of the proposed improvement.

We are heartily sick of waiting for the effects of "patriotism," and they who rely upon the patriotism of the East to do any thing for the West, or *vice versa*, lean upon a broken reed.—Self-interest in these stirring times is the great main-spring of human action, and all but philosophers in their closets know it to be so. We want to get to our Western friends and we want them to come to us, but we and they must provide the means: depend upon it, nobody is going to help us.

A prudent man will always look to the end; do not be mislead by the brilliant picture of a rail-road with a train of cars steaming it through the country at the rate of twenty miles an hour. If the sparseness of your population, and the natural obstacles will not justify a rail-road at this time, make a M'Adamised road; if the expense of that is greater than the circumstances of the country will justify, make a mud turn-pike, and if you can do no better, improve your county roads. But begin at once; do something; every hill you grade, every valley you fill up, will bring you additional population, and with it additional facilities to make more expensive improvements. The members of the Legislature might make the road themselves, in the time they will spend in talking about it.—We think this one of the greatest faults of our people, for they are ardent and imaginative, they spend their time in poring over magnificent schemes without regard to the circumstances of the country, to the total neglect of more homely, but more practical and useful, objects. It is for



these reasons, *chiefly*, that we discourage reliance upon legislative assistance to carry out vast schemes of internal improvement. Believe us, friends, when we say, that this advice, however unwise it may be, is dictated by the warmest wishes for the prosperity of our native State, from the Pan Handle to the Carolina line.

#### IRRIGATION.

The Editor of the American Agriculturist speaks of having visited, last summer, the Insane Hospital at Worcester, Massachusetts, where he was informed by Dr. Woodward, the superintendent, that among his patients there was one who was ambitious to farm upon his own plans. "At length, the Doctor good humoredly yielded to his importunities, and gave him possession of a field in rear of the hospital, on which to expend his eccentricities. The field was in grass, and the surface of it slightly descending from the rear of the buildings. Near the sides of these he constructed little ponds into which he drained the water from the roofs, and the urine from the water closets—let it stand and well amalgamate a few days, and then he conducted this liquid, quite evenly, by means of narrow, shallow ditches, over all his field. The result was, that it yielded six cuttings of grass, of about one ton per acre; making six tons per acre, during the first season! So much for a crazy man's farming."

For the Southern Planter.

#### COW PEAS.

It is the opinion of many a farmer that lands after being in clover a number of years become what they denominate clover sick; whether this is true or not, if the following facts be so, they will find an excellent substitute in cow peas. A gentleman in visiting South Carolina and Georgia, says, that his attention was directed to the cow pea of those States as an improving crop for our exhausted soils. He mentions a gentleman well known in the South who sowed a field in oats, so poor that he only reaped seven bushels of oats per acre; as soon as the oats were taken off, the land was ploughed and sown in cow peas, which were ploughed in when at their rankest growth. The following summer he reaped fourteen bushels of oats per acre. A repetition of the process gave him next season twenty-eight bushels of oats to the acre; and the third crop of peas turned in yielded over forty bushels. When this gentleman returned he sowed the cow pea on a field too poor to grow clover, on the 5th day of May, at the rate of one bushel to the acre, and when they were ploughed in, the average length of the vines

was seven feet, requiring a three-horse plough to cover them. He never had such difficulty in turning in the most luxuriant crop of clover.

J. F.

#### BUTTER.

A proposition was laid before the Legislature this winter to establish an inspection of butter in the city of Richmond; one of the members of the Legislature who was too modest to make a speech in the House, came down to our office and desired us to say to the people of the Commonwealth that if they would keep the butter pot with the mouth downwards, so that the putrid fluid might drain from the butter, there would be no need of such an office as the one proposed, for there would be no butter to be condemned.

For the Southern Planter.

#### THE DAIRY.

*Mr. Editor*,—Among the many luxuries we enjoy in summer, I consider good cool, unadulterated milk and sweet butter to have the precedence of most all others, and in order that all may have them in their purity, I send you a description of a dairy which my father has had in use for the last fifteen years, and which I know will answer the purpose of all dairymen and farmers better than any thing of the kind I have ever seen. They may not only keep their milk and butter nearly as cold as ice will make it, but may keep any kind of fresh meat perfectly pure and sweet for more than two weeks in the hottest weather. Where an ice-house is convenient to the dwelling, sink a dairy by the side or end of the house entirely to the bottom of the ice, (and throw a shed over to protect it from rain, &c.) only allowing a partition, or wall, as the case may be, between the ice and the dairy.—Let the cavity be five feet wide and the full length of the house, on the top of the ground, and form the steps of the ground as you dig down, by dropping a step ten inches in width every foot in depth. Then suppose the ice-house to be eighteen feet long and fourteen deep, you have a dairy at the bottom six feet by five, which will answer all ordinary purposes; of course it may be enlarged at pleasure. The dairy should have a few shelves, one above another, in order that the milk may be placed in a proper temperature. For immediate use it should be placed at the bottom; but for making butter, fifty-five degrees (Fahrenheit) is considered the best temperature for the collection of cream. I have come to the conclusion that no ice-house will keep ice the year round, that is situated on a



level surface and exposed to the rays of the summer's sun with a less quantity than one hundred and thirty-three cubic yards.

J. M.

*Hanover, Feb. 7, 1846.*

#### RESTORING FRUIT TREES.

I am not aware that the following experiment has ever been tried by others, but it may be the means of preserving many a valuable tree from otherwise inevitable destruction. Seven years ago, I had under my care a very old green gage plum tree; the heart of the tree was completely gone, and nothing remained but a few sickly branches, quite unable to bear fruit, and it was evident that unless some immediate remedy could be applied, life must quickly depart. I procured two barrowsful of rich loam, one of common road sand or scrapings, and three of fresh cow-dung; after incorporating them well, the mixture was applied to the tree, covering the trunk to the height of three feet. This was done in April, and, on examining the tree the following summer, I found that the old branches had made some strong young wood, and continued to grow and bore some of the finest green gages I ever saw. The mixture gradually works its way down, and in a year or two is no detriment to the appearance of the tree. I am again trying the same experiment, with every prospect of a favorable result.—*J. L. Snow, in Gardener's Chronicle.*

This communication is addressed to the Editor of the Albany Cultivator, and we hope it will attract the attention of Northern wool growers. Take it altogether, it is doubtful whether any portion of Virginia offers greater inducements to the sheep business than the county of Amherst.

#### VIRGINIA LANDS, &c.

Some time last spring, in writing a short communication for the Cultivator, I remarked that Virginia had the finest sheep walks in the world. Since this I am addressed privately on this subject, and to which I answer publicly.

It is the mountainous parts of Virginia which for this purpose I so highly recommend. I reside in Amherst county, twelve or fourteen miles from the Blue Ridge, on the spurs of which I hold some three thousand acres of land, the greater portion of which is rich; and on which I have never failed to make my flock of sheep as fat as I desired. The soil of the greater portion of these mountains is of good quality, being in many places, one, two, and three feet deep. The hornblend and granite lands are rich; the slates are poor. The natural grasses are the greensward, (or Kentucky blue grass,) and

white clover, which never fail to appear so soon as the timber is cleared off. The timber is principally chestnut, of superior quality for building houses and fences; and in many places, locust and other valuable timber. The mountains afford abundance of purest water. No part of the world can excel those mountains in the production of rye, oats, potatoes, hemp, flax, cabbage, beets, turnips, buckwheat, orchard grass, timothy, greensward and white clover.

A few days past, a tract of land lying near Amherst Court House, sold on a credit, for six dollars the acre, and another adjoining, at five dollars the acre. Both those tracts lie well, the soil being tolerably good, and the subsoil very good.

Near my residence, and on an excellent turnpike road, a few days past, a tract of 353 acres sold on a credit for four dollars the acre, a good portion being bottom lands, and the remainder good, though hilly.

Our fathers were growers of tobacco, and we are yet too much at the old trade to be growers of wool, or manufacturers of any thing. And again, I say, "what a fortune a Yankee could make here;" just come and see.

The late drought has curtailed our corn to perhaps less than one-half the usual crop; the oat crop is less than half, and tobacco about half. Corn is selling at fifty cents the bushel, wheat seventy-five cents, oats thirty cents. Beef from two to four dollars; cows and calves, eight to sixteen dollars; common sheep, seventy-five cents to one dollar and fifty cents. Ordinary wool, thirty to thirty-five cents. Hire of a man per month, five to eight dollars; women, about nothing.

This sheet, thus far written, has been lying on my table about ten days, during which time I have ascertained that my identifying the greensward as the Kentucky blue grass, is a mistake. I have both the greensward and Kentucky blue grass, but did not know till now what the latter was. The Kentucky blue grass grows in tufts very much the size and appearance of timothy, only that the blades are of a deep green color, and glossy appearance. It appears to be quite hardy, growing both late and early, and both in wet and dry weather.

The tobacco crop is now improving wonderfully, so that in the State perhaps three-fourths of the usual crop may be marketed.

I desire to say a few more words in reference to our mountain lands. Thousands of cattle are annually fattened on the mountains of Amherst, and thousands of acres on which they roam may be bought for one shilling, and perhaps less.

I suppose it is useless to tell either a Yankee or New Yorker that the wool growing on a sheep is proportionate and adapted to the climate in which he is, and hence one advantage or profit



in feeding sheep on mountains. Sheep are very healthy, and liable to but few diseases here. I have not noticed a sheep with rot for several years; and as to foot-rot I never heard of a case in the State. The greatest pest to our sheep is the worm in the nostril, which is often mistaken for the rot; and although irrelevant, I will take occasion to say, those worms may be dislodged and cast out, by laying the sheep on his back and pouring a spoonful of oil or melted lard in each nostril.

A flock of sheep can feed plentifully on our mountains till near Christmas, and through the winter they can be supported mostly by the growing rye; the snows being light and seldom lying more than two or three days.

Suppose a flock of six hundred sheep.

<i>Sheep account.</i>	<i>Dr.</i>
To wages, one man twelve months,	\$100 00
To wages, one boy, twelve months,	25 00
To finding man and boy,	75 00
To feeding 600 sheep the winter,	300 00

\$500 00

*Cr.*

By 150 old and young sheep sold,	\$225 00
By 2,000 lbs. wool sold, at 35 cents,	700 00

\$925 00

Annual profit on \$500 cost, \$425 00

A man and boy can attend 1,000 sheep, which is perhaps as many as should be together, even in a healthy region.

This estimate does not give a just profit, but let it for the present suffice.

ZA. DRUMMOND.

*Amherst Co., Sept. 10, 1845.*

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We have many esteemed favors on hand—our friends whose communications are kept back will please to consider that the delay proceeds rather from a desire to insert such matter as the season demands, than a failure to appreciate their communications. We have been so ungallant, even, as to put off a *lady* for a while. Under such circumstances no *gentleman* will complain.

For the Southern Planter.

#### MR. PEGRAM'S MODE OF CULTIVATING INDIAN CORN.

*Mr. Editor,*—When your January number reached me I was quite unwell, but have not been unmindful of the call of "E. B." and therefore, regret that my bad health has prevented my sooner responding to it. It is true, I have

made large crops of corn for the quantity of land cultivated, for several years back, with the exception of the last, when the excessive drought cut me off nearly one-half. I never had so fine a growth of stalk before, but alas! this is a world of disappointment.

My land is marled; in preparing it for corn, especially, I flush it very deep, then harrow it over, after which I lay it off five feet, and bed it—I then harrow, or rather drag the beds until they are in good order; then open them deeply with a trowel hoe, and the planters follow on, and drop two grains a common step, about eighteen inches, apart. I seldom commence planting sooner than the 10th of April. As soon as the corn is three or four inches high, I throw the dirt from it with a turn plough, and in the furrow made by this plough I run a trowel hoe (about nine inches wide) up to the beam; I then thin to one stalk, and weed it. My manure, which is in small heaps over the field, is scattered along on the top of the ridge just before we plough and weed, and the most of it is covered up in this working. As soon as I "get over" in that way, I throw the dirt back to the corn with the turn plough, just lapping it on the corn; then plough the furrow out. I then take a twenty-five tooth drag, fixing the clevis, &c., near the corner, and run once in a row, which puts the ground in level and nice order. This last ploughing, or dragging, is followed with the weeding hoes, cutting every particle of grass away. The "laying by" is begun about the 10th of June, and completed about the 25th, the corn generally being waist high. My experience in the management of the corn crop, satisfies me that early "laying by" is much the best. I seldom start a plough sooner than the middle of February. Our lands in this neighborhood are for the most part light, and I am certain are injured from fall fallowing. The later, in reason you flush them, for any crop, I think, the better. You can certainly make a crop of corn with one ploughing less, by this course.

"A Young Farmer," from the neighborhood of Hawkinsville, in this county, has alluded to me more than once in an article in the last Planter. I would say, most respectfully, to him and E. B. that I feel flattered by their good opinion—I wish I deserved such compliments.—My "compost heaps" of manure are the main cause of my success in growing the various crops that are cultivated in this section of Virginia. The great advantage of marling is, that it tends to fix manure in the soil. Marl by itself will not make poor land rich, but a proper application of it will enable its owner to enrich it in a third of the time, and more permanently; for lime in some form is indispensable to the durable improvement of every soil. I can say, with truth for myself and several of my neighbors, that we



have far more than doubled the fertility of our farms since we began to marl them in "good earnest," and since we have paid proper attention to the raising of manure. I will try and give you a chapter on my method of accumulating manure, some time this year, but being in advance of the advice of the "Farmer's Daughter, of Albemarle," attending to my own business strictly, myself, when night comes I am glad to take my leisure until bedtime. A farmer's life is my delight; would that I had since my manhood confined myself solely to it; 'tis a noble occupation, and undoubtedly holds out as few inducements for a man to violate his conscience as any other pursuit whatever.

Most respectfully, yours,

WILLIAM H. PEGRAM.

Marlborough, Sussex Co., Feb. 18, 1846.

For the Southern Planter.

#### INVERSION OF THE WOMB.

*Mr. Editor*,—Having received much instruction through the Planter, I will endeavor to contribute a piece of useful information, to owners of cows. My attention was called the other day to one of my cows which had recently

calved. On examination, it proved to be what medical men call inversion of the womb, which is a protrusion of the uterine body through the external parts. At least six inches of this body was without, and remained so for some ten hours before I performed the operation. The cow had lost her appetite completely, and it seemed that the powers of nature had commenced failing.

The following is the plan I pursued: Taking hold of the part presenting with both hands, gently but firmly pressing the tumor upwards and backwards, the resistance was soon overcome. Following the advantage gained, after the whole tumor was within, I followed it with one hand to the distance of one foot, and held my hand in this position until several strains made by the cow were over. The cow was well from this time, and ate what was prepared for her. I directed for her a quart of meal, one gallon of warm water, two tea-spoonfuls of laudanum and a table-spoonful of salt. I am somewhat of the opinion that it was brought on by oat-straw in which some of the damaged oats remained, of which her bed was made.

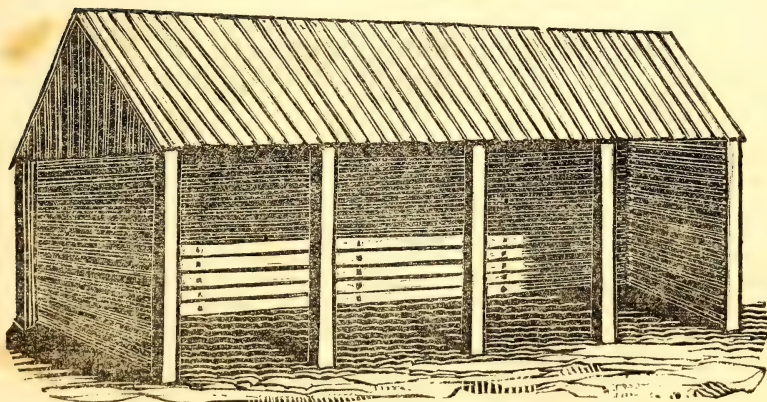
Hoping this may be of service to some of your subscribers, I send it for publication.

HIPPOCRATES.

January, 1846.

For the Southern Planter.

#### A WOOD-HOUSE.



The wood-house should be twenty or twenty-five feet by ten or twelve; open on one side, and boarded up on the other three sides. The boards had better be nailed to the inner side of the posts, to keep them from being knocked off by the wood when it is thrown in from the cart or wagon, or in packing it away.

Let the wood be piled at the two ends; leaving a space of six, eight or ten feet in the mid-

dle, for the cutters. For sawing, a smaller space will be needed than for the axe; and the saw will cut faster. Of course I mean a proper wood-saw, with a horse to lay the logs on while they are cutting.

Imagine a common wagon-shelter, only planked up on three sides instead of being open all round, and you have an exact notion of the wood-house. It need not cost more than five or ten dollars; it



is so simple a structure. And no man in his senses, after having tried it for two years, would be without it for twenty or fifty dollars a year. For its cheapness, it is the greatest comfort and convenience that a farmer can have near his dwelling. Sure I have a right to know, for wherever you find one of the Dumplings at the head of a family, you find a wood-house. And that is one reason why they are so plump, and rosy, and merry. Their fuel never comes in dripping, or daubed all over with snow; and brought, too, by a servant wringing wet. Both are dry. The wood blazes the moment it is laid on—it never stays half an hour wheezing and stewing, while the folks around are shivering and cheerless. Now, there is nothing that promotes good temper much more than a cheerful and a ready blaze in the fireplace.

The above plan of a wood-house was not sketched by me. I have but copied it (nearly) from one drawn by a cousin of Dorothy's—a sea-doctor, who has sailed to all parts of the world, and seen every kind of fixture, and convenience; Doctor M.

JOHN DUMPLING.

For the Southern Planter.

#### OATS AND CLOVER.

*Mr. Editor*,—As the season for sowing clover and oats is now almost at hand, I will relate to you an experiment made last spring, of sowing clover alone, and with oats. The custom with us is to sow clover, when sowed at all, with oats or wheat, as it is thought by many that either wheat or oats, or something of the kind, is necessary to protect the young clover from the hot sun. It is scarcely necessary to add that in our light, sandy soils this plan fails almost as often as it succeeds. But to the experiment. The first of last March, I began to sow a field, which yielded corn the previous year, in oats and clover. The whole field had been prepared as usual, ploughed and harrowed, for the reception of the grain, but just before I finished sowing it, the seed oats gave out, and there was a strip of ground, an oblong, about an acre and a half stretching across an entire end of the field, which was not sown in oats. As the ground, however, was ready prepared, and having a plenty of clover seed, the seedsman was directed to sow the whole field in clover, the acre and a half as well as the part already sowed in oats: this was done, and here is the result. The part of the field sowed in oats has but a few plants of clover on it. I am quite sure there are not as many plants of clover on an acre as there were hills of corn; whereas, on the piece where no oats were sown the clover is as thick as I wish it, looks healthy, and the plants are double the size of those on the other piece.

There is also a remarkable difference in the natural grasses on the two pieces of ground. The land on which clover alone was sown yielded a heavy growth of hog weeds, I don't know the botanical name, and some wire-grass; indeed the crop of weeds was so luxuriant, and stood so very thick in July, that I expected the clover would be smothered; and the remainder of the field, on which oats and clover were sown, has a few hog weeds and a heavy growth of wire-grass. The difference in the vegetation in the month of September was so great that several persons asked me if the acre and a half had not been manured, which was not the case. The drought last summer, as every body knows, was excessive, and why the clover suffered less from it where there were no oats, I am unable to say, for the weeds where the clover now looks so well, were twice as thick as the oats. The soil is a sandy loam—has been cleared about nineteen years, and was marled four years ago.

BOLLING JONES.

Surry Co., Feb. 1, 1846.

#### CHESTER COUNTY HOGS AND JERSEY BLUE CHICKENS.

We are overwhelmed with inquiries for the Chester County hog. Our friends will save us a world of trouble and obtain the information they seek much more surely and promptly by addressing their letters directly to Gen. Richardson, Richmond, Virginia.

We promised the General to visit his hogs and his famous Jersey Blues, but the weather and our numerous engagements have prevented our doing so, as yet. In a little note received from him a day or two since, he says:

In reply to an inquiry from me, whether there is not a larger hog to be had, Mr. Clement says, "I know of none equal to the kind I sent you, for beauty of form, size, and quality combined. I think of them as I do of the Jersey Blue chickens, that there has been nothing better of their kind seen by me yet." I shall have the full breed, and half breed from other fine sows, the latter at half price.

Very truly, yours,

WILLIAM H. RICHARDSON.

#### WINTER DAIRY.

If farmers, who have easy access to market, were to raise larger quantities of carrots, and other roots for their milk stock, with a view to a winter dairy, I am confident they would obtain a profitable return for their labor. With a sufficiency of such food, and a pint of Indian meal to each cow per day, cows that "come in," in



the autumn, (which they should do for a winter dairy,) will give a rich supply of milk all winter, and the cream, under the management of a skilful dairywoman, will produce butter of fine appearance and flavor. Fresh made butter, of this character, will always secure a quick sale, and a higher price than the best quality laid down in June or September.—*Stone's Address.*

#### MANAGEMENT OF HOGS.

A correspondent says:

"On my compost bed, which was composed of salt marsh turf, creek mud and lime, I made my hog pen the first of November. Before I put them up to fatten I covered the pen over, say two feet thick with wheat chaff; from time to time I put in chaff and straw. As they would root in, I continued to cover, until they were killed. Thus you may imagine the quantity and quality of this pen of manure. The hogs never touched the ground—always high, dry, and warm. I fed them, as usual, on potatoes, pumpkins, rutabagas, boiled and thickened; and never had I hogs to do so well, and on much less food.

Very truly, your friend, &c.

WILLIAM D. M'CARTY.

*Richmond Co., Feb. 8, 1846."*

#### POSTAGE.

In our September number for 1845, we published the following:

"On our cover we state the postage on the Planter, under the new law, to be the same as on other newspapers. Finding that several of our post masters differed with us in our construction of the law, we wrote to the Post Master General upon the subject early in July, and received for answer, that Mr. Johnson considered the question so doubtful a one, that he had submitted it to the Attorney General, and that we should hear from the Department as soon as his opinion could be obtained. For our own part, we cannot see how either the Post Master General or the Sub Post Masters can doubt about the matter. In the 'Regulations prescribed by the Post Master General to exhibit and enforce the provisions of the act of Congress, March 3, 1845,' Regulation, No. 534, reads as follows:

"534. A newspaper is defined to be any printed publication issued in numbers, and published at stated intervals of not more than a month, conveying intelligence of passing events. It generally consists of a sheet, but may be composed of two sheets, of paper. In such case it is chargeable with only single newspaper postage; provided the two sheets, in the aggregate,

do not exceed nineteen hundred square inches. If it exceed that superficial extent, it is to be rated as a pamphlet."

"This is an exact transcript of the sixteenth section of the law, and we certainly fill all the requirements of the section. The 'Cultivator,' 'Cabinet,' &c., have long been determined to be newspapers, because they conveyed intelligence of passing events in agriculture. Our paper, although of a similar character, was denied the privilege of newspaper rate, because of the stitched and covered form in which we appeared; but the last Congress, with a wisdom which does them honor, abolished this absurd distinction, and declared that *any* printed publication issued in numbers consisting of not more than *two* sheets, published at intervals of not more than *one month*, should be rated as a newspaper. We do not occupy quite two sheets,—the whole size of the paper does not exceed sixteen hundred square inches, and our paper is published at intervals not greater than a month. Where is the peg upon which to hang a doubt?"

Since that time we have had an opportunity of calling upon the Post Master General, in person, and informing him, that notwithstanding the plain declaration of the law, our subscribers were frequently charged more than newspaper postage. Mr. Johnson replied, that there was an ambiguity and inconsistency in the law that rendered it incomprehensible, and that it was impossible to say what was a pamphlet and what a newspaper; but he added that he intended to bring the difficulty to the notice of the present Congress, and he doubted not that they would settle the question definitely, at once.—Until then, he seemed inclined to decide that nothing could be considered a newspaper that was stitched. We were so dissatisfied with this senseless and obsolete distinction which seems to suppose that the framers of the law were actuated by the most inveterate prejudice against needle and thread, that we applied to the Attorney General, and he decidedly concurred with us in the opinion, that there was nothing in the *stitching* of a paper either criminal, or *contra bonos mores*, and that it could not have been the policy of the law to discountenance any such proceeding. He thought that the sixteenth section in the law of 1845 was enacted expressly to repeal this ridiculous construction of the Department, and to declare the policy of the law to be to favor the periodical dissemination of a knowledge of passing events, whether in Litera-



ture, Politics, Commerce, Manufactures, or *Agriculture*—whether in a stitched or unstitched form, limiting only the size and intervals of such publications.

This statement we withheld, in hopes that some action would before this have been had upon the subject; but our subscribers complain so much of the postage with which they are charged, and we so frequently receive letters from post masters themselves, asking how we can mark our paper as subject only to newspaper postage, that in justice to them and to ourself we have thought fit to make this explanation. Our friends will oblige us by calling the attention of their several post masters to it. It is for them, of course, after reading the law and hearing the argument, to pursue their own course; we were never more sure of any thing, than that the judiciary would sustain us in our interpretation of the law of 1845.

#### A PET HEN.

A hen, of the golden pheasant breed, belonging to Mr. Richard Barnes, of Treales, which has been brought up a pet ever since it was a chicken, comes regularly into the house, and lays its egg on the lap of a child four years old. If the child is absent, it deposits it on the chair whereon the child is accustomed to sit. After it has laid its egg, it is indulged with a few pieces of oat cake, or wheaten bread.—*Preston Chronicle*.

#### AGE OF ANIMALS.

A bear rarely exceeds twenty years; a dog lives twenty years; a wolf, twenty; a fox, fourteen or sixteen; lions are long lived—Pompey lived to the age of seventy years; a squirrel or hare, seven or eight years; rabbits, seven. Elephants have been known to live to the great age of four hundred years. When Alexander the Great had conquered one Porus, King of India, he took a great elephant which had fought valiantly for the king, and named him Ajax, dedicated him to the Sun, and let him go with this inscription, "Alexander, the son of Jupiter, hath dedicated Ajax to the Sun." This elephant was found with this inscription, three hundred and fifty years afterward.\* Pigs have been known to live to the age of thirty years; the rhinoceros to twenty. A horse has been known to live to the age of sixty-two, but averages twenty to thirty. Camels sometimes live to the age of

\* We wish the gentleman who found this elephant would be good enough to tell us upon what durable material the inscription was written.—ED. PLANTER.

one hundred. Stags are long-lived. Sheep seldom exceed the age of ten. Cows live about fifteen years. Cuvier considers it probable that whales sometimes live one thousand years. Mr. Mallerton, has the skeleton of a swan that attained the age of two hundred years. Pelicans are long-lived. A tortoise has been known to live to the age of one hundred and seven.—*Exchange paper*.

For the Southern Planter.

#### PEACH TREES.

*Mr. Editor*,—Permit me to give the farmers a slight hint relative to their peach trees at this season of the year. I have just examined ours and find wherever the glue, or gum, is oozing from about the roots, there is sure to be a worm, one or more, at work between the bark and wood. I have found as many as seven in the same tree, and it must inevitably have died the coming summer, had I not with a hoe scraped the glue and earth from the root, and following the cavity from which it oozed, found and killed the worm. The worms have the same appearance as the sawyer found in pine trees, and from one to one and a half inches in length.

J. M.

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## SANDS'S SARSAPARILLA,

FOR THE REMOVAL AND PERMANENT CURE OF ALL DISEASES ARISING FROM AN IMPURE STATE OF THE BLOOD,  
OR HABIT OF THE SYSTEM.

**T**HIS medicine is constantly performing almost incredible cures of diseases arising from impurities of the blood and general system. It has arrested and cured numerous cases of scrofulous affections, diseases of the skin, rheumatic gout, diseased liver, painful enlargement of the knee, elbow and wrist joints, chronic rheumatism, sore throat, chronic constitutional disorders, and various other disorders arising from impure secretions. In this preparation are strongly concentrated all the valuable medicinal properties of Sarsaparilla, on which its activity depends, compounded with other remedial agents, selected from the vegetable kingdom, the whole strength of which is extracted on an entirely new principle, which has cost many years of labor and much expense. The great object desired is now triumphantly accomplished, in the production of a remedy possessing a controlling power over supposed incurable diseases, heretofore unknown in the history of medicine.

The testimony of those who have been cured by its use, with their residence, has been published from time to time, and were it desirable a mass of the most overwhelming testimony could be brought forward, proving most conclusively its inestimable value, as an active and curative medicine in the above diseases. The afflicted, or those who may have given up in despair, and all who are interested, are invited to make a trial of this valuable medicine, or to call on those who have come forward and borne public testimony of its priceless value to them, and satisfy themselves individually of its power in arresting and curing disease, and of what it has performed for others.

The following interesting case is presented, and the reader invited to its careful perusal. Comment on such evidence is unnecessary.

NEW YORK, July, 25, 1844.

*Messrs. Sands:*—Gents—I consider it but an act of justice to you to state the following facts in reference to the great benefit I have received in the cure of an obstinate CANCEROUS ULCER on my breast.

I was attended eighteen months by a regular and skilful physician, assisted by the advice and counsel of one of our most able and experienced surgeons, without the least benefit whatever. All the various methods of treating cancer were resorted to; for five weeks in succession my breast was burned with caustic three times a day, and for six it was daily syringed with a weak solution of nitric acid, and the cavity or internal ulcer was so large that it held over an ounce of the solution. The Doctor probed the ulcer and examined the bone, and said the disease was advancing rapidly to the lungs, and if I did not get speedy relief by medicine or an operation, the result would be fatal. I was advised to have the breast laid open and the bones examined, but finding no relief from what had been done, and feeling I was rapidly getting worse, I almost despaired of recovery, considered my case nearly hopeless.

Seeing various testimonials and certificates of cure by the use of "SANDS' SARSAPARILLA," in cases similar to my own, I concluded to try a few bottles, several of which were used, but from the long, deep seated character of my disease, produced no very decided change; considering this as the only probable cure for my case, I persevered, until the disease was entirely cured. It is now over eleven months since the cure was completed; there is not the slightest appearance of a return, and I therefore pronounce myself WELL, and the cure entirely effected by "SANDS' SARSAPARILLA," as I took no other medicine of any kind during the time I was using it, nor have I taken any since. Please excuse this long deferred acknowledgment, which I think it my duty to make. Your valuable Sarsaparilla cured me, with the blessing of Divine Providence, when nothing else could, and I feel myself under lasting obligations to you can say many things I cannot write, and I do most respect-

fully invite ladies afflicted as I have been, to call upon me and I will satisfy them fully of the truth as stated above, and many other things in reference to the case. NANCY J. MILLER, 218 Sullivan st.

The following letter from one of the most eminent Physicians in the city of Baltimore, is presented with a view of showing the opinions of Physicians generally in relation to this valuable medicine,—many others of a similar tenor have been received from several of the most distinguished physicians throughout our country.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 4th, 1843.

A. B. & D. Sands.—Gentlemen:—I have used your Extract of Sarsaparilla since its introduction into this city. It gives me pleasure to state, I have found it to answer my most sanguine expectations. I believe it to be the best preparation of that valuable article now in use. With much respect, yours,

JOHN WHITRIDGE, M. D., 46 Gay Street.

For further particulars and conclusive evidence of its superior value and efficacy, see pamphlets, which may be obtained of agents gratis.

Prepared and sold Wholesale and Retail by

A. B. & D. SANDS, Druggists and Chemists,  
79 Fulton st. New York.

Authorized agents for the Proprietors, in Richmond A. Duval & Co., in Petersburg Rosser and Anderson, in Norfolk M. A. Santos, in Lynchburg D. R. Lyman, in Fredericksburg James Cook, in Raleigh, N. C., Williams & Haywood.

Sold also by Druggists generally throughout the United States. Price \$1 per bottle—six bottles for \$5.

The public are respectfully requested to remember that it is Sands's Sarsaparilla, that has and is constantly achieving such remarkable cures of the most difficult class of diseases to which the human frame is subject, and ask for Sands' Sarsaparilla and take no other. my 1 6t

### REAPING MACHINES.

**T**HE subscriber, as the authorized agent of Cyrus McCormick, is prepared to receive orders for his celebrated Reaping Machine, for the next harvest.—The character and value of this implement are so well established, that it is unnecessary to say any thing more in its favor. Many gentlemen were disappointed in getting the Machine last year in consequence of delaying their orders too long. The demand for them is increasing so rapidly, that it will be impossible to fill any but the earlier orders that will be given. Apply immediately to

C. T. BOTTS.

### JAMES RIVER LAND.

**T**HE subscriber is authorized to sell, upon very accommodating terms, a valuable plantation of 474 acres on James River, adjoining the Goochland Court House tract.

C. T. BOTTS.

### DRINKER & MORRIS,

BOOKSELLERS, PUBLISHERS, STATIONERS AND BOOK-BINDERS,

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Have constantly on hand a general assortment of Standard and Miscellaneous Books; Blank Books of every description; School and Classical Books, and Stationery of every variety.

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And dealers in

Music, Musical Instruments and Fancy Goods,  
No. 131, MAIN ST., RICHMOND, VA.

### SOUTHERN PLANTER.

There has been some irregularity in the Mailing of the Planter, the cause of which has been discovered and removed.



## LUCK'S LOTTERY OFFICE.

FOR Prizes, call at the *Lucky* Office, on 13th, between Main and Cary Streets—or address your Orders to  
C. B. LUCK, Richmond, Va.

## NEW AGRICULTURAL WARE ROOM.

The Subscribers have entered into a partnership under the style of

### BOTTS & BALDWIN,

For the transaction of a general Agricultural Business. In a few days they will open an Agricultural Ware Room in this city, which they intend to keep supplied with **PLOUGHS, STRAW CUTTERS, CORNSHELLERS, &c. &c.** of their own manufacture. They will also keep a general assortment of **AXES, HOES, SPADES, SHOVELS**, and every other agricultural implement. **SEEDS**, also, of every variety will be furnished at the very lowest market prices. In short, it is their intention to establish a house for the farmers of Virginia in which their wants can be completely supplied.

C. T. BOTTS,  
HEMAN BALDWIN.

All orders for Implements, &c. also for land agency, will be addressed to Botts & Baldwin; letters in relation to the Southern Planter, will be addressed, as heretofore, to C. T. Botts.

### PROSPECTUS

OF A

## WEEKLY AGRICULTURAL AND MISCELLANEOUS NEWSPAPER.

It has been urged upon the subscriber that a demand exists in Virginia for a larger agricultural paper than is afforded in the limits of the *SOUTHERN PLANTER*, as at present organized. He himself has felt the want, as his Subscribers and Contributors have increased, of elbow room; but he has no idea of running the risk of publishing a paper without a tolerable certainty of receiving a remuneration for his labor. He therefore lays the following scheme before the public, to ascertain whether or not he will be supported in it. He will publish a weekly newspaper in the city of Richmond, 22 by 35 inches, which shall be devoted to Agriculture and Rural Economy, for Three Dollars a year, payable sixty days after the issue of the first number. It shall be printed on excellent paper, with new type. It will be handsomely illustrated with Cuts, and will altogether present the most respectable appearance.

The larger portion of the paper will be devoted to the subject of Agriculture, whilst the LITERARY, COMMERCIAL and POLITICAL News of the day will not be neglected. The last shall be given without fear, favor, affection or comment. It is believed that by proper selections and a due degree of labor, all that is needed for general purposes in these departments may be condensed in a page of a weekly paper. In short, it will be the object of the Editor to make the paper as interesting and instructive to the Farmer's family as to the Farmer himself. For the FARMER, he will endeavor to procure the results of well tried experiments; he will seek to obtain and report the practices of the most successful cultivators, considering those the most learned who make the best crops; he will keep his readers constantly advised of all the improvements in agricultural machines and implements, illustrating the same with cuts, wherever the nature of the subject demands it. For the FARMER'S WIFE, he relies upon the promised assistance of the best housewife he knows for collecting good household recipes, and for original directions for the management of a house, kitchen, garden, poultry yard, &c. For the FARMER'S DAUGHTER, he will seek a better collection of humor, wit, and literary matter, than can be found in the *Lady's Book* or *Graham's Magazine*.

If this project succeeds, the subscriber will be enabled to devote his whole time to the Agricultural Interest of the State, and will have an opportunity to lay before his readers a great deal of valuable matter that is excluded from his present limits.

But that he conceives the object of a Prospectus to be rather to explain the scope and design of the work than to trumpet forth the merits of the Editor, he would say, that he has the vanity to believe that if he is properly encouraged in this design, he can furnish an Agricultural and Literary newspaper that would be welcome to every hearth in Virginia.

Under no circumstances will the *Monthly Planter* be discontinued. If the weekly paper goes into operation the monthly periodical, in its present form, will be made up of the most valuable agricultural matter in it.

To carry this plan into execution, a thousand subscribers will be required to begin with, at least to enable him to issue such a paper as the subscriber wishes to present to the public, and as he thinks the Agricultural Interest of Virginia is entitled to demand.

His friends who may receive this Prospectus will please, if they can, fill the blanks with names, and return it to him within a reasonable period.

C. T. BOTTS, RICHMOND, VA.

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